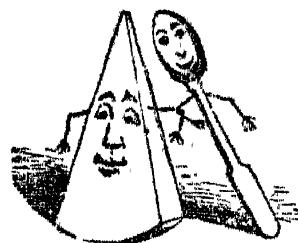


THE
SLANG DICTIONARY
OR,
THE VULGAR WORDS, STREET PHRASES,
AND "FAST" EXPRESSIONS OF
HIGH AND LOW
SOCIETY.

MANY WITH THEIR ETYMOLOGY,
AND A FEW WITH THEIR HISTORY TRACED.

"Rabbit-charming words, which carry so many wild-fires wrapped up in 'hem'."
—SOUTIL.



The "Wooden" and the "Wooden Spoon." — See p. 272.

LONDON:
MDEN HOT EN, PICCADILLY.
1865.

Copies of this work, interleaved with finely-ruled paper, for the use of those who desire to collect such Slang and colloquial words as may start into existence from time to time, can be obtained from the publisher, price 2s. 6d.

THIRTEENTH THOUSAND.

P R E F A C E.

WITH this work is incorporated *The Dictionary of Modern Slang, Cant, and Vulgar Words*, issued by “a London Antiquary” in 1859. The first edition of that work contained about 3000 words; the second, issued twelve months later, gave upwards of 5000. Both editions were reviewed by the critical press with an approval seldom accorded to small works of the kind. During the four years that have elapsed, the compiler has gone over the field of unrecognised English once more. The entire subject has been re-surveyed, out-lying terms and phrases have been brought in, new street-words have been added, and better illustrations of old colloquial expressions given. The result is the volume before the reader, which offers, for his amusement or instruction, nearly 10,000 words and phrases commonly deemed “vulgar,” but which are used by the highest and lowest, the best, the wisest, as well as the worst and most ignorant of society.

Any apology for an inquiry like the present is believed to be unnecessary. The philologist and the historian usually find in such material the best evidences of a people’s progress or decline. It may not be out of place to say here—and I am sure he would not have objected—

that the late Mr Buckle took the greatest interest in the subject, and that in a few instances I am indebted to that gentleman for the probable etymologies of some of the terms given in the Dictionary. "Many of these words and phrases," he used to say, "are but serving their apprenticeship, and will eventually become the active strength of our language."

The widespread interest taken in the subject of English vulgar speech has surprised me. From almost every capital in Europe I have received communications asking further particulars, or informing me that scraps of their language have become mixed with our street-talk; and from India, China, the Cape, Australia, and North and South America I have received letters of advice or inquiry upon the subject. In German magazines numerous articles have appeared upon my former book; and, at Turin, Professor Ascoli has published a lengthy work upon the Lingua Franca words in the speech of our lower orders, which the *Dictionary of Modern Slang* was the first to detect and make known. The Professor looks to the Lombard merchants, who flocked to London in the days of Elizabeth and James I., as the source from whence we derive this curious element in our vulgar speech. I am sorry to inform him that we have to thank the less dignified organ-grinders, as they are termed, for the introduction of this Italian peculiarity in our street-language.

The short history of Cant and Slang, which precedes the Dictionary, was first published in 1859, and has not since been re-written, although the Dictionary, which follows, has been more than trebled in size, and consequently contains many more illustrations of the different classes of colloquial speech than are given in the introduction. For the general style and aim of this preliminary performance, the compiler feels it necessary to offer some apology.

The more vulgar and less known Cant or secret terms of the London thieves are given in the Dictionary at the foot of each page. The compiler scarcely knew what to do with some of the more repulsive of these words—those explanatory of thieving, &c., and which continually occur in the language of low life. Their very existence is a lamentable fact; and the dry, unpoetic way they explain criminal intentions and actions is miserable in the extreme. Crime is an awkward thing to deal with, and, as in the case of our own Legislature, when trying successfully to regulate the punishment, and at the same time provide for the reformation of criminal offenders, he found the matter a singularly difficult one to manage. Slang is generally pithy and amusing, whereas Cant, like our lower orders in their thoughts and actions, is unrelieved by any feeling approaching to the poetic or the refined.

A few Slang and Cant words will be observed in the plural. The compiler endeavoured, as far as possible, to

give the singular number; but in the case of some of the terms he found this impossible, as he never heard them used in any other form than the plural.

The reader will please bear in mind that this is a Dictionary of *modern* Slang,—a list of colloquial words and phrases in *present* use,—whether of ancient or modern formation. Whenever *Ancient* or *Ancient English* is appended to a Slang or Cant word, it is meant to signify that the expression was in respectable use in or previous to the reign of Queen Elizabeth. *Ancient Cant* indicates that the term was used as a Cant word in or previous to the same reign. *Old* or *Old English*, affixed to a vulgar word, signifies that it was in general use as a proper expression in or previous to the reign of Charles II. *Old Cant* indicates that the term was in use as a Cant word during or before the same reign.

Obsolete Slang terms are not given; no notice, therefore, has been taken of the numerous expressions that occur in the play-books and other popular literature of the past three hundred years, which have served their day, and now form no part of our tongue. Only the *living* language of the time has been dealt with.

Not long since the compiler purchased *The History of a Manchester Cadger: Narrated in his own Language*, price 1d. He was certainly somewhat surprised on opening the pamphlet to find that it consisted of eight pages

of his own little book, reprinted with a few errors, and without any acknowledgment of the source from whence it was taken. He could from his heart recommend the Manchester Cadger to reprint the Ten Commandments, and study one of them, now that he has somewhat improved his fortune by the first pilfer. It is said that 40,000 copies have been sold of the *History*. H.I.H. the Prince Lucien Bonaparte very recently discovered one of his privately-printed little books, *The Song of Solomon, in the Lancashire Dialect*, being hawked around the same city in the form of a twopenny edition.

The compiler will be thankful for any corrections, additional examples, or words omitted. He has occupied many spare hours in the formation of this Dictionary of unrecognised English, and he wishes in future editions to make it as perfect as possible.

Based upon the present performance, a work of a similar but more extended character is in progress. It will give an appropriate extract from books, serials, broadsheets, or any other source which may afford material illustrative of the actual employment of the several Slang, Cant, and Vulgar terms in English printed literature. It is believed that the work will be of considerable value to the philologist. Further particulars may be obtained of the publisher, who will also receive subscribers' names.

In conclusion, the compiler begs to express his obligations to those correspondents who have from time to time assisted him with their valuable suggestions.

J. C. H.

PICCADILLY, 1st June 1864

* * * *The Prefaces to the compiler's previous work are added, as it is believed that they will not prove uninteresting to the reader.*

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

OF THE

DICTIONARY OF MODERN SLANG, ETC.

If any gentleman of a studious turn of mind, who may have acquired the habit of carrying pencils and notebooks, would for one year reside in Monmouth Court, Seven Dials; six months in Orchard Street, Westminster; three months in Mint Street, Borough; and consent to undergo another three months on the extremely popular but very much disliked treadmill, (*vulgo* the "Everlasting Staircase,") finishing, I will propose, by a six months' tramp, in the character of a cadger and beggar, over England, I have not the least doubt but that he would be able to write an interesting work on the languages, secret and vulgar, of the lower orders.

In the matter of SLANG, our studious friend would have to divide his time betwixt observation and research. Conversations on the outsides of omnibuses, on steamboat piers, or at railway termini, would demand his most attentive hearing; so would the knots of semi-decayed cabmen, standing about in bundles of worn-out great coats and haybands, betwixt watering-pails, and conversing in a

dialect every third word of which is without home or respectable relations. He would also have to station himself for hours near gatherings of ragged boys playing or fighting, but ever and anon contributing to the note-book a pure street-term. He would have to "hang about" lobbies, mark the refined word-droppings of magniloquent funkeys, "run after" all the popular preachers, go to the Inns of Court, be up all night and about all day—in fact, be a ubiquitarian, with a note-book and pencil in hand.

As for research, he would have to turn over each page of our popular literature, wander through all the weekly serials, wade through the newspapers, fashionable and unfashionable, and subscribe to Mudie's, and scour the novels. This done, and if he has been an observant man, I will engage to say that he has made a choice gathering, and that we may reasonably expect an interesting little book.

I give this outline of preparatory study to shew the reason the task has never been undertaken before. People in the present chase after respectability don't care to turn blackguards, and exchange cards with the Whitechapel Pecker, or the Sharp's-alley Chicken, for the sake of a few vulgar, although curious words; and we may rest assured that it is quite impossible to write any account of vulgar or low language, and remain seated on damask in one's own drawing-room. But a fortunate circumstance attended

the compiler of the present work, and he has neither been required to reside in Seven Dials, visit the treadmill, nor wander over the country in the character of a vagabond or a cadger.

In collecting old ballads, penny histories, and other printed street narratives, as materials for a *History of Cheap or Popular Literature*, he frequently had occasion to purchase in Seven Dials and the Borough a few old songs or dying speeches, from the chaunters and patterers who abound in those neighbourhoods. With some of these men (their names would not in the least interest the reader, and would only serve the purpose of making this Preface look like a vulgar page from the London Directory) an arrangement was made that they should collect the Cant and Slang words used by the different wandering tribes of London and the country. Some of these chaunters are men of respectable education, (although filling a vagabond's calling,) and can write good hands, and express themselves fluently, if not with orthographical correctness. To prevent deception and mistakes, the words and phrases sent in were checked off by other chaunters and tramps. Assistance was also sought and obtained, through an intelligent printer in Seven Dials, from the costermongers in London, and the pedlars and hucksters who traverse the country. In this manner the greater number of Cant words were procured, very valuable help being continually

derived from *Mayhew's London Labour and the London Poor*, a work which had gone over much of the same ground. The Slang and vulgar expressions were gleaned from every source which appeared to offer any materials; indeed the references attached to words in the Dictionary frequently indicate the channels which afforded them.

Although in the Introduction I have divided Cant from Slang, and treated the subjects separately, yet in the Dictionary I have only, in a few instances, pointed out which are Slang, or which are Cant terms. The task would have been a difficult one. Many words which were once Cant are Slang now. The words PRIG and COVE are instances in point. Once Cant and secret terms, they are now only street vulgarisms.

The etymologies attempted are only given as contributions to the subject, and the derivation of no vulgar term is guaranteed. The origin of many street-words will, perhaps, never be discovered, having commenced with a knot of illiterate persons, and spread amongst a public that cared not a fig for the history of the word, so long as it came to their tongues to give a vulgar piquancy to a joke, or relish to an exceedingly familiar conversation. The references and authorities given in italics frequently shew only the direction or probable source of the etymology. The author, to avoid tedious verbiage, was obliged, in so small a work, to be curt in his notes and suggestions.

He has to explain also that a few words will probably be noticed in the Slang and Cant Dictionary that are questionable as coming under either of those designations. These have been admitted because they were originally either vulgar terms, or the compiler had something novel to say concerning them. The makers of our large dictionaries have been exceedingly crotchety in their choice of what they considered respectable words. It is amusing to know that Richardson used the word HUMBUG to explain the sense of other words, but omitted it in the alphabetical arrangement as not sufficiently respectable and ancient. The word SLANG, too, he served in the same way.

Filthy and obscene words have been carefully excluded, although street-talk, unlicensed and unwritten, abounds in these.

“Immodest words admit of no defence,
For want of decency is want of sense.”

It appears from the calculations of philologists, that there are 38,000 words in the English language, including derivations. I believe I have, for the first time, in consecutive order, added at least 3000 words to the previous stock,—vulgar and often very objectionable, but still terms in everyday use, and employed by thousands. It is not generally known, that the polite Lord Chesterfield once desired Dr Johnson to compile a Slang Dictionary; indeed, it was Chesterfield, some say, who first used the word HUMBUG.

Words, like peculiar styles of dress, get into public favour, and come and go in fashion. When great favourites and universal they truly become “household words,” although generally considered Slang, when their origin or antecedents are inquired into.

A few errors of the press, I am sorry to say, may be noticed; but, considering the novelty of the subject, and the fact that no fixed orthography of vulgar speech exists, it will, I hope, be deemed a not uninteresting essay on a new and very singular branch of human inquiry; for, as Mayhew remarks, “the whole subject of Cant and Slang is, to the philologist, replete with interest of the most profound character.”

THE COMPILER WILL BE MUCH OBLIGED BY THE RECEIPT OF ANY CANT, SLANG, OR VULGAR WORDS NOT MENTIONED IN THE DICTIONARY. THE PROBABLE ORIGIN, OR ETYMOLOGY, OF ANY FASHIONABLE OR UNFASHIONABLE VULGARISM, WILL ALSO BE RECEIVED BY HIM WITH THANKS.

PICCADILLY, June 30, 1859.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

OF THE

DICTIONARY OF MODERN SLANG, ETC.

THE First Edition of this work had a rapid sale, and within a few weeks after it was published, the entire issue passed from the publisher's shelves into the hands of the public. A Second Edition, although urgently called for, was not immediately attempted. The First had been found incomplete, and faulty in many respects, and the author determined thoroughly to revise and recast before again going to press. The present Edition, therefore, will be found much more complete than the First; indeed, I may say that it has been entirely re-written, and that, whereas the First contained but 3000 words, this gives nearly 5000, with a mass of fresh illustrations, and extended articles on the more important Slang terms—HUMBUG, for instance. The notices of a *Lingua Franca* element in the language of London vagabonds are peculiar to this Edition.

My best thanks are due to several correspondents for valuable hints and suggestions as to the probable etymologies of various colloquial expressions.

One literary journal of high repute recommended a division of Cant from Slang; but the annoyance of two indices in a small work appeared to me to more than counterbalance the benefit of a stricter philological classification, so I have for the present adhered to the old arrangement; indeed, to separate Cant from Slang would be almost impossible.

PICCADILLY, *March 15, 1860.*

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THE SLANG DICTIONARY.

THE HISTORY OF CANT, OR THE SECRET LANGUAGE OF VAGABONDS.

CANT and SLANG are universal and world-wide.

Nearly every nation on the face of the globe, polite and barbarous, may be divided into two portions, the stationary and the wandering, the civilised and the uncivilised, the respectable and the scoundrel,—those who have fixed abodes and avail themselves of the refinements of civilisation, and those who go from place to place picking up a precarious livelihood by petty sales, begging, or theft. This peculiarity is to be observed amongst the heathen tribes of the southern hemisphere, as well as in the oldest and most refined countries of Europe. As Mayhew very pertinently remarks, “It would appear, that not only are all races divisible into wanderers and settlers, but that each civilised or settled tribe has generally some wandering horde intermingled with and in a measure preying upon it.” In South Africa, the naked and miserable Hottentots are pestered by the still more abject *Sonquas*; and it may be some satisfaction for us to know that our old enemies at the Cape, the Kaffirs, are troubled with a tribe of rascals called *Fingoes*,—the former term, we are informed by travellers, signifying beggars, and the latter wanderers and outcasts. In South America, and among the islands of the Pacific, matters are pretty much the same. Sleek and fat rascals, with not much inclination towards honesty, fatten, or rather fasten, like body insects, upon other rascals, who would be equally sleek and fat but for their vagabond dependents. Luckily for respectable persons, however, vagabonds, both at home and abroad, shew certain outward peculiarities which distinguish them from

the great mass of lawful people off whom they feed and fatten. Personal observation, and a little research into books, enable me to mark these external traits. The wandering races are remarkable for the development of the bones of the face, as the jaws, cheek-bones, &c., high-crowned, stubborn-shaped heads, quick, restless eyes,* and hands nervously itching to be doing;† for their love of gambling,—staking their very existence upon a single cast; for sensuality of all kinds; and for their use of a CANT language with which to conceal their designs and plunderings.

The secret jargon, or rude speech, of the vagabonds who hang upon the Hottentots is termed *Cuze-cut*. In Finland, the fellows who steal seal-skins, pick the pockets of bear-skin overcoats, and talk Cant, are termed Lappes. In France, the secret language of highwaymen, housebreakers, and pickpockets is named *Argot*. The brigands and more romantic rascals of Spain term their private tongue Germania,‡ or Robbers' Language. Rothwälsch,§ or foreign-beggar-talk, is synonymous with Cant and thieves' talk in Germany. The vulgar dialect of Malta, and the Scala towns of the Levant—imported into this country and incorporated with English cant—is known as the *Lingua Franca*, or bastard Italian. And the crowds of lazy beggars that infest the streets of Naples and Rome, and the brigands that Albert Smith used to describe near Pompeii—stopping a railway train, and deliberately rifling the pockets and baggage of the passengers—their

* "Swarms of vagabonds, whose eyes were so sharp as Lynx."—*Bulletin's Simples and Surgery*, 1562.

† *Magheu* has a curious idea upon the habitual restlessness of the nomadic tribes — i.e., "Whether it be that in the mere act of wandering there is a greater determination of blood to the surface of the body, and, consequently, a less quantity sent to the brain."—*London Labour*, vol. i., p. 2.

‡ *Germania*, probably from the Gipsies, who were supposed to come from Germany into Spain.

§ *Rothwälsch*, from Roter, beggar, vagabond, and wälsch, foreign. See Dictionary of Gipsy language in *Poit's Zigeuner in Europa und Asien*, vol. ii., Halle, 1844. The Italian cant is called *Fourbesque*, and the Portuguese, *Caldo*. See *Francisque-Michel Dictionnaire d'Argot*, Paris, 1856.

secret language is termed *Gergo*. In England, as we all know, it is called *Cant*—often improperly *Slang*.

Most nations, then, may boast, or rather lament, a vulgar tongue—formed principally from the national language—the hereditary property of thieves, tramps, and beggars,—the pests of civilised communities. The formation of these secret tongues vary, of course, with the circumstances surrounding the speakers. A writer in *Notes and Queries** has well remarked, that “the investigation of the origin and principles of Cant and Slang language opens a curious field of inquiry, replete with considerable interest to the philologist and the philosopher. It affords a remarkable instance of lingual contrivance, which, without the introduction of much arbitrary matter, has developed a system of communicating ideas, having all the advantages of a foreign language.”

An inquiry into the etymology of foreign vulgar secret tongues, and their analogy with that spoken in England, would be curious and interesting in the extreme; but neither present space nor personal acquirements permit of the task, and therefore the writer confines himself to a short account of the origin of English Cant.

The terms CANT and CANTING were doubtless derived from *chaunt* or *chaunting*,—the “whining tone, or modulation of voice adopted by beggars, with intent to coax, wheedle, or cajole by pretensions of wretchedness.”† For the origin of the other application of the word CANT, pulpit hypocrisy, we are indebted to a pleasant page in the *Spectator*, (No. 147):—“Cant is by some people derived from one Andrew Cant, who, they say, was a Presbyterian minister in some illiterate part of Scotland, who, by exercise and use, had obtained the faculty, *alias* gift, of talking in the pulpit in such a dialect that ‘tis said he was

* Mr Thos. Lawrence, who promised an *Etymological Cant and Slang Dictionary*. Where is the book?

† Richardson’s *Dictionary*.

understood by none but his own congregation,—and not by all of them. Since Master *Cant's* time it has been understood in a larger sense, and signifies all exclamations, whinings, unusual tones, and, in fine, all praying and preaching like the unlearned of the Presbyterians.” This anecdote is curious, if it is not correct. It was the custom in Addison’s time to have a fling at the true-blue Presbyterians, and the mention made by Whitclocke of Andrew Cant, a fanatical Scotch preacher, and the squib upon the same worthy, in *Scotch Presbyterian Eloquence Displayed*, may probably have started the whimsical etymology. As far as we are concerned, however, in the present inquiry, CANT was derived from *chaunt*, a beggar’s whine; CHAUNTING being the recognised term amongst beggars to this day for begging orations and street whinings; and CHAUNTER, a street talker and tramp, the very term still used by strollers and patterers. The use of the word CANT, amongst beggars, must certainly have commenced at a very early date, for we find “TO CANTE, to speake,” in Harman’s list of Rogues’ Words in the year 1566; and Harrison about the same time,* in speaking of beggars and Gipsies, says, “they have devised a language among themselves which they name CANTING, but others Pedlars’ French.”

Now the word CANT in its old sense, and SLANG† in its modern application, although used by good writers and persons of education as synonymes, are in reality quite distinct and separate terms. CANT, apart from religious hypocrisy, refers to the old secret language, by allegory or distinct terms, of Gipsies, thieves, tramps, and beggars. SLANG represents that evanescent, vulgar language, ever changing with fashion and taste, which has princi-

* *Description of England*, prefixed to *Holinshed's Chronicle*.

† The word SLANG, as will be seen in the chapter upon that subject, is purely a Gipsy term, although now-a-days it refers to low or vulgar language of any kind, other than cant. SLANG and GIBBERISH in the Gipsy language are synonymous; but, as English adoptions, have meanings very different from that given to them in their original.

pally come into vogue during the last seventy or eighty years, spoken by persons in every grade of life, rich and poor, honest and dishonest.* CANT is old ; SLANG is always modern and changing. To illustrate the difference : a thief in *Cant* language would term a horse a PRANCER or a PRAD ; while in *Slang*, a man of fashion would speak of it as a BIT OF BLOOD, or a SPANKER, or a NEAT TIT. A handkerchief, too, would be a BILLY, a FOGLE, or a KENT RAG, in the secret language of low characters ; whilst amongst vulgar persons, or those who aped their speech, it would be called a RAG, a WIPE, or a CLOUT. CANT was formed for purposes of secrecy. SLANG is indulged in from a desire to appear familiar with life, gaiety, town-humour, and with the transient nicknames and street jokes of the day. Both Cant and Slang, I am aware, are often huddled together as synonymous ; but they are distinct terms, and as such should be used.

To the Gipsies beggars and thieves are undoubtedly indebted for their Cant language. The Gipsies landed in this country early in the reign of Henry VIII. They were at first treated as conjurors and magicians,—indeed, they were hailed by the populace with as much applause as a company of English theatricals usually receive on arriving in a distant colony. They came here with all their old Eastern arts of palmistry, fortune-telling, doubling money by incantation and burial,—shreds of pagan idolatry ; and they brought with them, also, the dishonesty of the lower caste of Asiatics, and the vagabondism they had acquired since leaving their ancient dwelling-places in the East many centuries before. They possessed, also, a *language* quite distinct from anything that had been heard in England, and they claimed the title of Egyptians, and as such, when their thievish wandering propensities became a public nuisance, were cautioned

* “The vulgar tongue consists of two parts : the first is the CANT Language ; the second, those burlesque phrases, quaint allusions, and nicknames for persons, things, and places, which, from long uninterrupted usage, are made classical by prescription.” —*Grose's Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue*, 1st edition, 1785.

and proscribed in a royal proclamation by Henry VIII.* The Gipsies were not long in the country before they found native imitators. Vagabondism is peculiarly catching. The idle, the vagrant, and the criminal outcasts of society, caught an idea from the so-called Egyptians—soon corrupted to Gipsies. They learned from them how to tramp, sleep under hedges and trees, to tell fortunes, and find stolen property for a consideration—frequently, as the saying runs, before it was lost. They also learned the value and application of a *secret tongue*; indeed, all the accompaniments of maunding and imposture, except thieving and begging, which were well known in this country long before the Gipsies paid it a visit,—perhaps the only negative good that can be said in their favour.

Harman, in 1566, wrote a singular, not to say droll, book, entitled, *A Caveat for commen Cursetors, vulgarly called Vagabones, newly augmented and enlarged*, wherein the history and various descriptions of rogues and vagabonds are given, together with their canting tongue. This book, the earliest of the kind, gives the singular fact that within a dozen years after the landing of the Gipsies, companies of English vagrants were formed, places of meeting appointed, districts for plunder and begging operations marked out, and rules agreed to for their common management. In some cases Gipsies joined the English gangs; in others, English vagrants joined the Gipsies. The fellowship was found convenient and profitable, as both parties were aliens to the laws and customs of the country, living in a great measure in the open air, apart from the lawful public, and often meeting each other on the same by-path, or in the same retired valley;—but seldom intermarrying, or entirely adopting each other's habits. The common people, too, soon began to consider them as of one family,—all rogues, and from Egypt. The secret language spoken by the Gipsies, principally Hindoo, and extremely bar-

* “Outlandish people calling themselves *Egyptians*.” 1530.

barous to English ears, was found incomprehensible and very difficult to learn. The Gipsies, also, found the same difficulty with the English language. A rude, rough, and most singular compromise was made, and a mixture of Gipsy, Old English, newly-coined words, and cribbings from any foreign, and therefore secret language, mixed and jumbled together, formed what has ever since been known as the CANTING LANGUAGE, or PEDLARS' FRENCH ; or, during the past century, ST GILES'S GREEK.

Such was the origin of CANT ; and in illustration of its blending with the Gipsy or Cingari tongue, dusky and Oriental from the sunny plains of Central Asia, I am enabled to give the accompanying list of Gipsy, and often Hindoo, words, with, in many instances, their English adoptions :—

<i>Gipsy.</i>	<i>English.</i>
BAMBOOZLE, to perplex or mislead by hiding. <i>Modern Gipsy.</i>	BAMBOOZLE, to delude, cheat, or make a fool of any one.
BOSH, rubbish, nonsense, offal. <i>Gipsy and Persian.</i>	BOSH, stupidity, foolishness.
CHEESE, thing or article, "That's the CHEESE," or thing. <i>Gipsy and Hindoo.</i>	CHEESE, or CHEESY, a first-rate or very good article.
CHIVE, the tongue. <i>Gipsy.</i>	CHIVE, or CHIVVY, a shout, or loud-tongued.
CUTA, a gold coin. <i>Danubian Gipsy.</i>	COUTER, a sovereign, twenty shillings.
DADE, or DADI, a father. <i>Gipsy.</i>	DADDY, nursery term for father.*
DISTARABIN, a prison. <i>Gipsy.</i>	STURABIN, a prison.
GAD, or GADSI, a wife. <i>Gipsy.</i>	GAD, a female scold; a woman who tramps over the country with a beggar or hawker.
GIBBERISH, the language of Gipsies, synonymous with SLANG. <i>Gipsy.</i>	GIBBERISH, rapid and unmeaning speech.

* In those instances, indicated by a *, it is impossible to say whether or not we are indebted to the Gipsies for the terms. DAD, in *Welsh*, also signifies a father. CUR is stated to be a mere term of reproach, like "Dog," which in all European languages has been applied in an abusive sense. Objections may also be raised against GAD and MAUND.

<i>Gipsy.</i>	<i>English.</i>
ISCHUR, SCHUR, or CHUR, a thief. <i>Gipsy and Hindoo.</i>	CUR, a mean or dishonest man.
LAB, a word. <i>Gipsy.</i>	LOBS, words.
LOWE, or Lowr, money. <i>Gipsy and Wallachian.</i>	LOWRE, money. <i>Ancient Cant.</i>
MAMI, a grandmother. <i>Gipsy.</i>	MAMMY, or MAMMA, a mother, formerly sometimes used for grandmother.
MANG, or MAUNG, to beg. <i>Gipsy and Hindoo.</i>	MAUND, to beg.
MORT, a free woman,—one for common use amongst the male Gipsies, so appointed by Gipsy custom. <i>Gipsy.</i>	MORT, or MOTT, a prostitute.
MU, the mouth. <i>Gipsy and Hindoo.</i>	MOO, or MUN, the mouth.
MULL, to spoil or destroy. <i>Gipsy.</i>	MULL, to spoil, or bungle.
PAL, a brother. <i>Gipsy.</i>	PAL, a partner, or relation.
PANÉ, water. <i>Gipsy. Hindoo, PAWNEE.</i>	PARNEY, rain.
RIG, a performance. <i>Gipsy.</i>	RIG, a frolic, or “spree.”
ROMANY, speech or language. <i>Spanish Gipsy.</i>	ROMANY, the Gipsy language.
ROME, or ROMM, a man. <i>Gipsy and Coptic.</i>	RUM, a good man, or thing. In the Robbers' language of Spain, (partly Gipsy,) RUM signifies a harlot.
ROMEE, a woman. <i>Gipsy.</i>	RUMY, a good woman or girl.
SLANG, the language spoken by Gipsies. <i>Gipsy.</i>	SLANG, low, vulgar, unauthorised language.
TAWNO, little. <i>Gipsy.</i>	TANNY, TEENY, little.
TSCHIB, or JIBB, the tongue. <i>Gipsy and Hindoo.</i>	JIBB, the tongue; JABBER,* quick-tongued, or fast talk.

Here, then, we have the remarkable fact of several words of pure Gipsy and Asiatic origin going the round of Europe, passing into this country before the Reformation, and coming down to us through numerous generations purely in the mouths of the people. They have seldom been written or used in books, and simply as vulgarisms have they reached our time. Only a few

* JABBER, I am reminded, may be only another form of GABBER, GAB, very common in Old English, from the *Anglo-Saxon, GÆBBAN.*

are now Cant, and some are household words. The word JOCKEY, as applied to a dealer or rider of horses, came from the Gipsy, and means in that language a whip. Our standard dictionaries give, of course, none but conjectural etymologies. Another word, BAMBOOZLE, has been a sore difficulty with lexicographers. It is not in the old dictionaries, although extensively used in familiar or popular language for the last two centuries ; in fact, the very word that Swift, Butler, L'Estrange, and Arbuthnot would pick out at once as a telling and most serviceable term. It is, as we have seen, from the Gipsy ; and here I must state that it was Boucher who first drew attention to the fact, although in his remarks on the dusky tongue he has made a ridiculous mistake by concluding it to be identical with its offspring, CANT. Other parallel instances, with but slight variations from the old Gipsy meanings, could be mentioned ; but sufficient examples have been adduced to shew that Marsden, the great Oriental scholar in the last century, when he declared before the Society of Antiquaries that the Cant of English thieves and beggars had nothing to do with the language spoken by the despised Gipsies, was in error. Had the Gipsy tongue been analysed and committed to writing three centuries ago, there is every probability that many scores of words now in common use could be at once traced to its source. Instances continually occur now-a-days of street vulgarisms ascending to the drawing-rooms of respectable society. Why, then, may not the Gipsy-vagabond alliance three centuries ago have contributed its quota of common words to popular speech ?

I feel confident there is a Gipsy element in the English language hitherto unrecognised ; slender it may be, but not, therefore, unimportant.

“Indeed,” says Moore the poet, in a humorous little book, *Tom Crib’s Memorial to Congress*, 1819, “the Gipsy language, with the exception of such terms as relate to their own peculiar customs, differs but little from the regular Flash or Cant lan-

guage." But this was magnifying the importance of the alliance. Moore knew nothing of the Gipsy tongue other than the few Cant words put into the mouths of the beggars in *Beaumont and Fletcher's Comedy of the Beggar's Bush*, and *Ben Jonson's Masque of the Gipsies Metamorphosed*,—hence his confounding Cant with Gipsy speech, and appealing to the Glossary of Cant for so-called "Gipsy" words at the end of the *Life of Bamfylde Moore Carew*, to bear him out in his assertion. Still his remark bears much truth, and proof would have been found long ago if any scholar had taken the trouble to examine the "barbarous jargon of Cant," and to have compared it with Gipsy speech. As George Borrow, in his *Account of the Gipsies in Spain*, eloquently concludes his second volume, speaking of the connexion of the Gipsies with Europeans :—" Yet from this temporary association were produced two results : European fraud became sharpened by coming into contact with Asiatic craft ; whilst European tongues, by imperceptible degrees, became recruited with various words, (some of them wonderfully expressive) many of which have long been stumbling-blocks to the philologist, who, whilst stigmatising them as words of mere vulgar invention, or of unknown origin, has been far from dreaming that a little more research or reflection would have proved their affinity to the Sclavonic, Persian, or Romaic, or perhaps to the mysterious object of his veneration, the Sanscrit, the sacred tongue of the palm-covered regions of Ind ; words originally introduced into Europe by objects too miserable to occupy for a moment his lettered attention,—the despised denizens of the tents of Roma."

But the Gipsies, their speech, their character—bad enough, as all the world testifies—their history, and their religious belief, have been totally disregarded, and their poor persons buffeted and jostled about until it is a wonder that any trace of origin or national speech exists in them. On the Continent they received better attention at the hands of learned men. Their language

was taken down, their history traced, and their extraordinary customs and practice of living in the open air, and eating raw or putrid meat, explained. They ate reptiles and told fortunes because they had learnt to do so through their forefathers centuries back in Hindostan ; and they devoured carrion because the Hindoo proverb—“*That which God kills is better than that killed by man*”*—was still in their remembrance. Grellman, a learned German, was their principal historian, and to him we are almost entirely indebted for the little we know of their language.† The first European settlement of the Gipsies was in the provinces adjoining the Danube, Moldau and Theiss, where M. Cogalniceano, in his *Essai sur les Cigains de la Moldo-Valachie*, estimates them at 200,000. Not a few of our ancient and modern Cant and Slang terms are Wallachian and Greek words, brought in by these wanderers from the East. See COUTER, DRUM, BOUNG, (*Harman*), LOWR, &c.

GIPSY, then, started, and partially merged into CANT; and the old story told by Harrison and others, that the first inventor of canting was hanged for his pains, would seem to be a fable, for jargon as it is, it was, doubtless, of gradual formation, like all other languages or systems of speech. The Gipsies at the present day all know the *old Cant* words, as well as their own tongue, —or rather what remains of it. As Borrow states, “The dialect of the English Gipsies is mixed with English words.”‡ Those of the tribe who frequent fairs, and mix with English tramps, readily learn the new words, as they are adopted by what Harman calls “the fraternity of vagabonds.” Indeed, the old CANT is a common language to vagrants of all descriptions and origin scattered over the British Isles.

* This very proverb was mentioned by a young Gipsy to Crabb, a few years ago.—*Gipsies' Advocate*, p. 14.

† I except, of course, the numerous writers who have followed Grellman, and based their researches upon his labours.

‡ *Gipsies in Spain*, vol. i., p. 18.

Ancient English CANT has considerably altered since the first dictionary was compiled by Harman in 1566. A great many words are unknown in the present tramps' and thieves' vernacular. Some of them, however, bear still their old definitions, while others have adopted fresh meanings,—to escape detection, I suppose. “ABRAHAM-MAN” is yet seen in our modern SHAM ABRAHAM, or PLAY THE OLD SOLDIER—*i. e.*, to feign sickness or distress. “AUTUM” is still a church or chapel amongst Gipsies; and “BECK,” a constable, is our modern Cant and Slang BEEK, a policeman or magistrate. “BENE,” or BONE, stands for *good* in Seven Dials and the back streets of Westminster; and “BOWSE” is our modern BOOZE, to drink or fuddle. A “BOWSING KEN” was the old Cant term for a public-house; and BOOZING KEN, in modern Cant, has precisely the same meaning. “BUFE” was then the term for a dog, now it is BUFFER,—frequently applied to men. “CASSAN” is both old and modern Cant for cheese; the same may be said of “CHATTES” or CHATTS, the gallows. “COFE,” or COVE, is still the vulgar synonyme for a man. “DRAWERS” was hose, or “hosen,”—now applied to the lining for trousers. “DUDES” was Cant for clothes; we now say DUDDS. “FLAG” is still a fourpenny-piece; and “FYLCHE” means to rob. “KEN” is a house, and “LICK” means to thrash; “PRANCER” is yet known amongst rogues as a horse; and “to PRIG,” amongst high and low, is to steal. Three centuries ago, if one beggar said anything disagreeable to another, the person annoyed would say, “STOW YOU,” or hold your peace; low people now say, STOW IT, equivalent to “be quiet.” “TRINE” is still to hang; “WYN” yet stands for a penny. And many other words, as will be seen in the Dictionary, still retain their ancient meaning.

As specimens of those words which have altered their original Cant signification, I may instance “CHETE,” now written CHEAT. CHETE was in ancient cant what *chop* is in the Canton-Chinese,—an almost inseparable adjunct. Everything was termed a

CHETE, and qualified by a substantive-adjective, which shewed what kind of a CHETE was meant; for instance, "CRASHING-CHETES" were teeth; a "MOFFLING-CIETE," a napkin; a "GRUNTING-CHETE," a pig, &c., &c. CHEAT now-a-days means to defraud or swindle, and lexicographers have tortured etymology for an original—but without success. *Escheats* and *escheatours* have been named, but with great doubts; indeed, Stevens, the learned commentator on Shakspeare, acknowledged that he "did not recollect to have met with the word *cheat* in our ancient writers."* CHEAT, to defraud, then, is no other than an old Cant term somewhat altered in its meaning,† and as such it should be described in the next etymological dictionary. Another instance of a change in the meaning of the old Cant, but the retention of the word, is seen in "CLY," formerly to take or steal, now a pocket;—remembering a certain class of low characters, a curious connexion between the two meanings will be discovered. "MAKE" was a halfpenny; we now say MAG,—MAKE being modern Cant for appropriating,—"convey the wise it call." "MILLING" stood for stealing, it is now a pugilistic term for fighting or beating. "NAB" was a head,—low people now say NOB, the former meaning, in modern Cant, to steal or seize. "PEK" was meat,—we still say PECKISH, when hungry. "PRYGGES, dronken Tinkers or beastly people," as old Harman wrote, would scarcely be understood now; a PEIG, in the 19th century, is a pickpocket or thief. "QUIER," or QUEER, like *cheat*, was a very common prefix, and meant bad or wicked,—it now means odd, curious, or strange; but to the ancient Cant we are indebted for the word, which etymologists should remember.‡ "ROME," or RUM, formerly

* Shaks. Henry IV., part ii , act ii , scene 4.

† It is easy to see how *cheat* became synonymous with "fraud," when we remember that it was one of the most common words of the greatest class of cheats in the country.

‡ I am reminded by an eminent philologist that the origin of QUEER is seen in the German QUER, crooked,—hence "odd." I agree with this etymology, but still have reason to believe that the word was first used in this country in a Cant sense. Is it

meant good, or of the first quality, and was extensively used like *cheat* and *queer*,—indeed as an adjective it was the opposite of the latter. RUM now means curious, and is synonymous with *queer*; thus,—a “RUMMY old fellow,” or a “QUEER old man.” Here again we see the origin of an every-day word, scouted by lexicographers and snubbed by respectable persons, but still a word of frequent and popular use. “YANNAM” meant bread, PANNUM is the word now. Other instances could be pointed out, but they will be observed in the Dictionary.

Several words are entirely obsolete. “ALYBBEG” no longer means a bed, nor “ASKEW” a cup. “BOOGET,”* now-a-days, would not be understood for a basket; neither would “GAN” pass current for mouth. “FULLAMS” was the old Cant term for false or loaded dice, and although used by Shakspeare in this sense, is now unknown and obsolete. Indeed, as Tom Moore somewhere remarks, the present Greeks of St Giles’s, themselves, would be thoroughly puzzled by many of the ancient canting songs,—taking, for example, the first verse of an old favourite—

“Bing out, bien Morts, and toure and toure,
 Bing out, bien Morts, and toure ;
 For all your duds are bing’d awast ;
 The bien cove hath the loure.” †

But I think I cannot do better than present to the reader at once an entire copy of the first Canting Dictionary ever compiled. As before mentioned, it was the work of one Thomas Harman, a gentleman who lived in the days of Queen Elizabeth. Some mentioned anywhere as a respectable term before 1500? If not, it had a vulgar or Cant introduction into this country.

* BOOCET properly signifies a leathern wallet, and is probably derived from the low Latin BULGA. A tinker’s budget is from the same source.

† Which, literally translated, means—

“ Go out, good girls, and look and see,
 Go out, good girls, and see ;
 For all your clothes are carried away,
 And the good man has the money.”

writers have remarked that Decker* was the first to compile a Dictionary of the vagabonds' tongue; whilst Borrow,† and Thomas Moore, the poet, stated that Richard Head performed that service in his *Life of an English Rogue*, published in the year 1680. All these statements are equally incorrect, for the first attempt was made more than a century before the latter work was issued. The quaint spelling and old-fashioned phraseology are preserved, and the reader will quickly detect many vulgar street words, old acquaintances, dressed in antique garb.‡

ABRAHAM-MEN be those that fayn themselves to have beeene mad, and have bene kept either in Bethel, or in some other pryson a good time.

ALYBBEG, a bedde.

ASKEW, a cuppe.

AUTEM, a churche.

AUTEM MORTES, married women as chaste as a cowe.

BAUDIE BASKETS bee women who goc with baskets and capcases on their armes, wherein they have laces, pinnes, nedles, whyte inkel, and round sylke gyrdels of all colours.

BECK, [Beek,] a constable.

BELLY-CHETE, apron.

BENE, good. *Benar*, better.

BENSHIP, very good.

BLETING CHETE, a calfe or sheepe.

BOOGET, a travelling tinker's baskete.

BORDE, a shilling.

BOUNG, a purse. [*Friesic*, pong; *Wallachian*, punga; see note, page 11.] The oldest form of this word is in Ulphilus, *PUGUS*; it exists also in the Greek, πουγγη.

BOWSE, drink.

BOWSING-KEN, an alehouse.

BUFE, [buffer, a man,] a dogge.

BYNGE A WASTE, go you hence.

* Who wrote about the year 1610.

† *Gipsies in Spain*, vol. i, p. 18. Borrow further commits himself by remarking that "Head's Vocabulary has always been accepted as the speech of the English Gipsies." Nothing of the kind. Head professed to have lived with the Gipsies, but in reality filched his words from Decker and Brome.

‡ The modern meanings of a few of the old Cant words are given within brackets.

CACKLING-CHETE, a coke, [cock,] or capon.

CASSAN, [cassam,] cheese.

CASTERS, a cloake.

CATETH, "the vpright Cofe cateth to the Roge," [probably a shortening or misprint of *Canteth*.]

CHATTES, the gallows.

CHETE, [see what has been previously said about this word.]

CLY, [a pocket,] to take, receive, or have.

COFE, [cove,] a person.

COMMISSION, [mish,] a shirt.

COUNTERFET CRANKE, these that do counterfet the Cranke be yong knaves and yonge harlots, that deeply dissemble the fulling sickness.

CRANKE, [cranky, foolish,] falling evil, [or wasting sickness.]

CRASHING-CHETES, teeth.

CUFFEN, a manne. [A *cuff* in Northumberland and Scotland signifies a lout or awkward fellow.]

DARKEMANS, the night.

DELL, a yonge wench.

DEWSE-A-VYLE, the countrey.

DOCK, to deflower.

DOXES, harlots.

DRAWERS, hosen.

DUDES, [or dudds,] clothes.

FAMBLES, handes.

FAMBLING-CHETE, a ring on one's hand.

FLAGG, a groat.

FRATER, a beggar wyth a false paper.

FRESHE-WATER-MARINERS, these kind of caterpillers counterfet great losses on the sea:—their shippes were drowned in the playne of Salisbury.

FYLCHE, to robbe: *Fylch-man*, [a robber.]

GAGE, a quart pot.

GAN, a mouth.

GENTRY COFE, a noble or gentle man.

GENTRY-COFES-KEN, a noble or gentle man's house.

GENTRY MORT, a noble or gentle woman.

GERRY, excrement.

GLASYERS, eyes.

GLYMMAR, fyber.

GRANNAM, corne.

GRUNTING-CHETE, a pygge.

GYB, a writing.

GYGER, [jigger,] a dore.

HEARING-CHETES, eares.

JARKE, a seale.

JARKEMAN, one who make writings and set seales for [counterfeit] licences and passports.

KEN, a house.

KYNCHEN CO, [or *cove*,] a young boye trained up like a "*Kynching Morte*." [From the German diminutive *Kindschen*.]

KYNCHING MORTE, is a little gyrtle, carried at their mothers' backe in a slate, or sheete, who brings them up sauagely.

LAG, water.

LAG OF DUDES a bucke [or basket] of clothes.

LAGE, to washe.

LAP, butter, mylke, or whey.

LIGHTMANS, the day.

LOWING-CHETE, a cowe.

LOWRE, money. [From the Wallurhian *Gipsy* word *LOWE*, coined money. See M. Cogalniceano's *Essai sur les Cigains de la Moldo-Valachie*.]

LUBBARES,—"sturdy Lubbares," country bumpkins, or men of a low degree.

LYB-BEG, a bed.

LYCKE, [lick,] to beate.

LYP, to lie down.

LYPKEN, a house to lye in.

MAKE, [mag,] a halfpenny.

MARGERI PRATER, a hen.

MILLING, to steale, [by sending a child in at a window.]

MOFFLING-CHETE, a napkin.

MORTES, [motts,] harlots.

MYLL, to robbe.

MYNT, gold.

NAB, [nob,] a heade.

NABCHE, a hat or cap.

NASE, dronken.

NOSEGENT, a nunne.

PALLYARD, a borne beggar, [who counterfeits sickness, or incurable sores. They are mostly Welshmen, Harman says.]

PARAM, mylke.

PATRICO, a priest.

PATRICOS KINCHEN, a pygge, [a satirical hit at the church, *Patrico* meaning a parson or priest, and *Kinchen* his little boy or girl.]

PEK, [peckish,] meat.

POPPELARS, porrage.

PRAT, a buttocke.

PRATLING-CHETE, a toung.

PRAUNCER, a horse.

PRIGGER OF PRAUNCERS be horse-stealers, for to prigge signifieth in their language to steale, and a Prauncer is a horse, so being put together, the matter was playn. [Thus writes old Thomas Harman, who concludes his description of this order of "pryggers," by very quietly saying, "I had the best gelding stolen out of my pasture, that I had amougst others, whyle this book was first a printing."]

PRYGGES, dronken Tinkers, or beastly people.

QUACKING-CHETE, a drake or duck.

QUAROMES, a body.

QUIER, [queer,] badde. [See what has been previously said about this word.]

QUYER OR AMPRINGES, boltes or fettters.

QUIER CUFFIN, the iustice of peace.

QUYER-KYN, a pryson house.

RED SHANKE, a drake or ducke.

ROGER, a goose.

ROME, goode, [now curious, noted, or remarkable in any way. *Rum* is the modern orthography.]

ROME BOUSE, [rum booze,] wyne.

ROME MORT, the Queene, [Elizabeth.]

ROME VYLE, [or Rum-ville,] London.

RUFF PECK, baken, [short bread, common in old times at farm-houses.]

RUFFMANS, the woods or bushes.

SALOMON, an alter or masse.

SKYPPER, a barne.

SLATE, a sheete or shetes.

SMELLING-CHETE, a nose.

SMELLING-CHETE, a garden or orchard.

SNOWT FAYRE, [said of a woman who has a pretty face or is comely.]

STALL, [to initiate a beggar or rogue into the rights and privileges of the canting order. Harman relates that when an upright man, or initiated first-class rogue, "mete any beggar, whether he be sturdy or impotent, he will demand of him whether ever he was 'stalled to the roge' or no. If he say he was, he will know of whom, and his name yt stalled him. And if he be not learnedly able to shew him the whole circumstance

thereof, he will spoyle him of his money, either of his best garment, if it be worth any money, and haue him to the bowsing-ken: which is, to some typpling-house next adjoyninge, and layth there to gage the best thing that he hath for twenty pence or two shillings: this man obeyeth for feare of beatinge. Then dooth this upright man call for a gage of bowse, which is a quarte potte of drink, and powres the same vpon his peld pale, adding these words,—I, G. P., do stalle thee, W. T., to the Roge, and that from henceforth it shall be lawfull for thee to cant, that is, to aske or begge for thi living in al places." Something like this treatment is the popular idea of freemasonry, and what schoolboys term "freeing."]

STAMPES, legges.

STAMPERS, shoes.

STAULING-KEN, a house that will receyue stollen wares.

STAWLING-KENS, tippling-houses.

STOW YOU, [stow it,] hold your peace.

STRIKE, to steale.

STROMMELL, strawe.

SWADDER, or *Pedller*, [a man who hawks goods.]

THE HIGH PAD, the highway.

THE RUFFIAN CLY THEE, the devil take thee.

TOGEMANS, [togg,] a cloake.

TOGMAN, a coate.

TO BOWSE, to drinke.

TO CANTE, to speake.

TO CLY THE GERKE, to be whipped.

TO COUCH A HOGSHEAD, to lie down and slepe.

TO CUTTE, to say. [*Cut it, cut it short*, &c., are modern slang phrases.]

TO CUT BENE WHYDDES, to speake or give good words.

TO CUTTE QUYER WHYDDES, to giue euil words or euil language.

TO CUT BENLE, to speak gentle.

TO DUP YE GYGER, [jigger,] to open the dore.

TO FYLCHE, to robbe.

TO HEUE A BOUGH, to robbe or rifle a boweth, [booth.]

TO MAUNDE, to aske or require.

TO MILL A KEN, to robbe a house.

TO NYGLE, [coition.]

TO NYP A BOUNG, [nip, to steal,] to cut a purse.

TO SKOWER THE CRAMPRINGES, to weare boltes or fetters.

TO STALL, to make or ordain.

TO THE RUFFIAN, to the Devil.

TO TOWRE, to see.

TRYNING, [trine,] hanging.

TYB OF THE BUTERY, a goose.

WALKING MORTE, womene, [who pass for widows.]

WAPPING [coition.]

WHYDDES, wordes.

WYN, a penny. [A correspondent of *Notes and Queries* suggests the connexion of this word with the Welch *GWYN*, white—*i. e.*, the white silver penny. See other examples under *BLUNT*, in the Dictionary; cf. also the *Armorican*, “*GWENNEK*,” a penny.]

YANNAM, bread.

Turning our attention more to the Cant of modern times, in connexion with the old, we find that words have been drawn into the thieves' vocabulary from every conceivable source. Hard or infrequent words, vulgarly termed *crack-jaw*, or *jaw-breakers*, were very often used and considered as Cant terms. And here it should be mentioned that at the present day the most inconsistent and far-fetched terms are often used for secret purposes, when they are known to be caviare to the million. It is really laughable to know that such words as *incongruous*, *insipid*, *interloper*, *intriguing*, *indecorum*, *forestall*, *equip*, *hush*, *grapple*, &c., &c., were current Cant words a century and a half ago; but such was the case, as any one may see in the *Dictionary of Canting Words* at the end of *Bacchus and Venus*,* 1737. They are inserted not as jokes or squibs, but as selections from the veritable pocket dictionaries of the Jack Sheppards and Dick Turpins of the day. If they were safely used as unknown and cabalistic terms amongst the commonalty, the fact would form a very curious illustration of the ignorance of our poor ancestors. One piece of information is conveyed to us—*i. e.*, that the “knights” or “gentlemen of the road,” using these polite words in those days of highwaymen, were really well-educated men,—which heretofore has always

* This is a curious volume, and is worth from one to two guineas. The Canting Dictionary was afterwards reprinted, word for word, with the title of *The Scoundrel's Dictionary*, in 1751. It was originally published, without date, about the year 1710 by E. E., under the title of a *Dictionary of the Canting Crew*.

been a hard point of belief, notwithstanding old novels and operas.

Amongst those Cant words which have either altered their meaning, or have become extinct, I may cite LADY, formerly the Cant for "a very crooked, deformed, and ill-shapen woman;*" and HARMAN, "a pair of stocks, or a constable." The former is a pleasant piece of satire, whilst the latter indicates a singular method of revenge. HARMAN was the first author who specially wrote against English vagabonds, and for his trouble his name became synonymous with a pair of stocks, or a policeman of the olden time.

Apart from the Gipsy element, we find that Cant abounds in terms from foreign languages, and that it exhibits the growth of most recognised and completely-formed tongues,—the gathering of words from foreign sources. In the reign of Elizabeth and of King James I., several Dutch, Spanish, and Flemish words were introduced by soldiers who had served in the Low Countries, and sailors who had returned from the Spanish Main, who, like "mine ancient Pistol," were fond of garnishing their speech with outlandish phrases. Many of these were soon picked up and adopted by vagabonds and tramps in their Cant language. The Anglo-Norman and the Anglo-Saxon, the Scotch, the French, the Italian, and even the classic languages of ancient Italy and Greece, have contributed to its list of words, besides the various provincial dialects of England. Indeed, as Mayhew remarks, English Cant seems to be formed on the same basis as the *Argot* of the French and the *Roth-Sprae* of the Germans,—partly metaphorical, and partly by the introduction of such corrupted foreign terms as are likely to be unknown to the society amid which the Cant speakers exist. ARGOT is the London thieves' word for their secret language; it is, of course, from the French, but that matters not so long as it is incomprehensible to the police and

the mob. BOOZE, or BOUSE, I am reminded by a friendly correspondent, comes from the Dutch BUYSEN. DOMINE, a parson, is from the Spanish. DONNA AND FEELES, a woman and children, is from the Latin ; and DON, a clever fellow, has been filched from the Lingua Franca, or bastard Italian, although it sounds like an odd mixture of Spanish and French ; whilst NUDDS, the vulgar term for clothes, may have been pilfered either from the Gaelic or the Dutch. FEELE, a daughter, from the French ; and FROW, a girl or wife, from the German—are common tramps' terms. So are GENT, silver, from the French *Argent* ; and VIAL, a country town, also from the French. HORRID-HORN, a fool, is believed to be from the Erse ; and GLOAK, a man, from the Scotch. As stated before, the Dictionary will supply numerous other instances.

The Celtic languages have contributed many Cant and vulgar words to our popular vocabulary. These have come to us through the Gaelic or Irish languages, so closely allied in their material as to be merely dialects of a primitive common tongue. This element may be from the Celtic population, which, from its ancient position as slaves or servants to the Anglo-Saxon conquerors, has contributed so largely to the lowest class of our population, and therefore to our Slang, provincial, or colloquial words ; or it may be an importation from Irish immigrants, who have undoubtedly contributed very largely to our criminal population.

There is one source, however, of secret street terms, which in the first edition of this work was entirely overlooked,—indeed, it was unknown to the editor until pointed out by a friendly correspondent,—the *Lingua Franca*, or bastard Italian, spoken at Genoa, Trieste, Malta, Constantinople, Smyrna, Alexandria, and all Mediterranean seaport towns. The ingredients of this imported Cant are many. Its foundation is Italian, with a mixture of modern Greek, German, (from the Austrian ports,) Spanish, Turkish, and French. It has been introduced to the notice of

the London wandering tribes by the sailors, foreign and English, who trade to and from the Mediterranean seaports, by the swarms of organ-players from all parts of Italy, and by the makers of images from Rome and Florence,—all of whom, in dense thoroughfares, mingle with our lower orders. It would occupy too much space here to give a list of these words. They are all noted in the Dictionary.

“There are several Hebrew terms in our Cant language, obtained, it would appear, from the intercourse of the thieves with the Jew *fences*, (receivers of stolen goods;) many of the Cant terms, again, are Sanscrit, got from the Gipsies; many Latin, got by the beggars from the Catholic prayers before the Reformation; and many, again, Italian, got from the wandering musicians and others; indeed, the showmen have but lately introduced a number of Italian phrases into their Cant language.”* The Hindostanee also contributes several words, and these have been introduced by the Lascar sailors, who come over here in the East Indiamen, and lodge during their stay in the low tramps’ lodging-houses at the east end of London. Speaking of the learned tongues, I may mention that, precarious and abandoned as the vagabond’s existence is, many persons of classical or refined education have from time to time joined the ranks,—occasionally from inclination, as in the popular instance of Bamfylde Moore Carew, but generally through indiscretion and loss of character.† This will in some measure account for numerous classical and learned words figuring as Cant terms in the vulgar Dictionary.

In the early part of the last century, when highwaymen were by all accounts so plentiful, a great many new words were added to the canting vocabulary, whilst several old terms fell into disuse.

* Mayhew’s *London Labour and the London Poor*, vol. iii., No. 43, Oct. 4, 1851.

† Mayhew (vol. i., p. 217) speaks of a low lodging-house “in which there were at one time five university men, three surgeons, and several sorts of broken-down clerks.” But old Harman’s saying, that “a wylde Roge is he that is borne a roge,” will perhaps explain this seeming anomaly.

CANT, for instance, as applied to thieves' talk, was supplanted by the word FLASH. In the North of England, the Cant employed by tramps and thieves is known as "the GAMMY." It is mainly from the old Gipsy corrupted. In the large towns of Ireland and Scotland this secret language is also spoken. All those words derived from "the GAMMY" are inserted in the Dictionary as from the "North Country."

A singular feature, however, in vulgar language, is the retention and the revival of sterling old English words, long since laid up in ancient manuscripts, or the subject of dispute among learned antiquaries. Disraeli somewhere says, "The purest source of *neology* is in the revival of *old words*"—

"Words that wise Bacon or brave Rawleigh spake;"

and Dr Latham honours our subject by remarking that "the thieves of London are the conservators of Anglo-Saxonisms." Mayhew, too, in his interesting work, *London Labour and the London Poor*, admits that many Cant and Slang phrases are merely old English terms which have become obsolete through the caprices of fashion. And the reader who looks into the Dictionary of the vagabond's lingo, will see at a glance that these gentlemen were quite correct, and that we are compelled to acknowledge the singular truth that a great many old words, once respectable, and in the mouths of kings and fine ladies, are now only so many signals for shrugs and shudders amongst exceedingly polite people. A young gentleman from Belgravia, who had lost his watch or his pocket-handkerchief, would scarcely remark to his mamma that it had been BONED—yet BONE, in old times, meant, amongst high and low, to steal. And a young lady living in the precincts of dingy but aristocratic May-Fair, although enraptured with a Jenny Lind or a Ristori, would hardly think of turning back in the box to inform papa that she (Ristori or Lind) "made no BONES of it"—yet the phrase was most respectable and well-

to-do before it met with a change of circumstances. "A CRACK article," however first-rate, would, as far as speech is concerned, have greatly displeased Dr Johnson and Mr Walker—yet both CRACK, in the sense of excellent, and CRACK UP, to boast or praise, were not considered vulgarisms in the time of Henry VIII. DODGE, a cunning trick, is from the Anglo-Saxon; and ancient nobles used to "get each other's DANDER UP" before appealing to their swords,—quite FLABERGASTING (also a respectable old word) the half score of lookers-on with the thumps and cuts of their heavy weapons. GALLAVANTING, waiting upon the ladies, was as polite in expression as in action; whilst a clergyman at Paule's Crosse thought nothing of bidding a noisy hearer "hold his GAB," or "shut up his GOB." GADDING, roaming about in an idle and trapesing manner, was used in an old translation of the Bible; and "to do anything GINGERLY" was to do it with great care. Persons of modern tastes will be shocked to know that the great Lord Bacon spoke of the lower part of a man's face as his GILLS.

Shakspeare, or, as the French say, "the divine William," also used many words which are now counted as dreadfully vulgar. "CLEAN gone," in the sense of out of sight, or entirely away; "you took me all A-MORT," or confounded me; "it won't FADGE," or suit, are phrases taken at random from the great dramatist's works. A London costermonger, or inhabitant of the streets, instead of saying, "I'll make him yield," or "give in," in a fight or contest, would say, "I'll make him BUCKLE under." Shakspeare, in his *Henry the Fourth*, (Part ii., act i., scene 1,) has the word; and Mr Halliwell, one of the greatest and most industrious of living antiquaries, informs us that "the commentators do not supply another example." How strange, then, that the Bard of Avon and the Cockney costermongers should be joint partners and sole proprietors of the vulgarism!. If Shakspeare was not a pugilist, he certainly anticipated the terms of the prize

ring—or they were respectable words before the prize ring was thought of—for he has PAY, to beat or thrash, and PEPPER, with a similar meaning; also FANCY, in the sense of pets and favourites,—pugilists are often termed *the Fancy*. The cant word PRIG, from the Saxon, *priccan*, to filch, is also Shakspearian; so indeed is PIECE, a contemptuous term for a young woman. Shakspeare was not the only vulgar dramatist of his time. Ben Jonson, Beaumont and Fletcher, Brome, and other play-writers, occasionally put Cant words into the mouths of their low characters, or employed old words which have since degenerated into vulgarisms. CRUSTY, poor tempered; “two of a KIDNEY,” two of a sort; LARK, a piece of fun; LUG, to pull; BUNG, to give or pass; PICKLE, a sad plight; FRUMP, to mock, are a few specimens casually picked from the works of the old histrionic writers.

One old English mode of canting, simple and effective when familiarised by practice, was the inserting a consonant betwixt each syllable: thus, taking *g*, “How do you do?” would be “Howg dog youg dog?” The name very properly given to this disagreeable nonsense, we are informed by Grose, was *Gibberish*.

Another Cant has recently* been attempted by transposing the initial letters of words, so that a mutton chop becomes a cutton mop, a pint of stout a stint of pout; but it is satisfactory to know that it has gained no ground. This is called *Marrow-skying*, or *Medical Greek*, from its use by medical students at the hospitals. Albert Smith terms it the *Gower Street Dialect*.

The *Language of Ziph*, I may add, is another rude mode of disguising English, in use among the students at Winchester College. Some notices of this method of conveying secret information, with an extensive Glossary of the Words, Phrases, Customs, &c., peculiar to the College, may be found in Mr Mansfield’s recently-published *School Life at Winchester College*.

ACCOUNT

OF THE

HIEROGLYPHICS USED BY VAGABONDS.

ONE of the most singular chapters in a *History of Vagabondism* would certainly be “An Account of the Hieroglyphic Signs used by Tramps and Thieves.” The reader may be startled to know that, in addition to a sacred language, the wandering tribes of this country have private marks and symbolic signs with which to score their successes, failures, and advice to succeeding beggars; in fact, that the country is really dotted over with beggars’ finger-posts and guide-stones. The assertion, however strange it may appear, is no fiction. The subject was not long since brought under the attention of the Government by Mr Rawlinson.* “There is,” he says in his report, “a sort of blackguards’ literature, and the initiated understand each other by Slang [Cant] terms, by pantomimic signs, and by HIEROGLYPHICS. *The vagrant’s mark may be seen in Havant, on corners of streets, on door-posts, on house-steps. Simple as these chalk-lines appear, they inform the succeeding vagrants of all they require to know; and a few white scratches may say, ‘Be importunate,’ or ‘Pass on.’*”

Another very curious account was taken from a provincial newspaper, published in 1849, and forwarded to *Notes and Queries*,† under the head of MENDICANT FREEMASONRY. “Persons,” remarks the writer, “indiscreet enough to open their purses to the relief of the beggar tribe, would do well to take a readily-learned lesson as to the folly of that misguided bene-

* *Mr Rawlinson’s Report to the General Board of Health, Parish of Havant, Hampshire.*

† Vol. v., p. 210.

volence which encourages and perpetuates vagabondism. Every door or passage is pregnant with instruction as to the error committed by the patron of beggars; as the beggar-marks shew that a system of freemasonry is followed, by which a beggar knows whether it will be worth his while to call into a passage or knock at a door. Let any one examine the entrances to the passages in any town, and there he will find chalk marks, unintelligible to him, but significant enough to beggars. If a thousand towns are examined, the same marks will be found at every passage entrance. The passage mark is a cypher with a twisted tail: in some cases the tail projects into the passage, in others outwardly; thus seeming to indicate whether the houses down the passage are worth calling at or not. Almost every door has its marks: these are varied. In some cases there is a cross on the brick work, in others a cypher: the figures 1, 2, 3, are also used. Every person may for himself test the accuracy of these statements by the examination of the brick-work near his own doorway—thus demonstrating that mendicity is a regular trade, carried out upon a system calculated to save time, and realise the largest profits." These remarks refer mainly to provincial towns, London being looked upon as the tramps' home, and therefore too *FLY*, or experienced, to be duped by such means.

The only other notice of the hieroglyphics of vagabonds that I have met with is in Mayhew's *London Labour and the London Poor*.* Mayhew obtained his information from two tramps, who stated that hawkers employ these signs as well as beggars. One tramp thus described the method of *WORKING*† a small town. "Two hawkers (*PALS*†) go together, but separate when they enter a village, one taking one side of the road, and selling different things; and so as to inform each other as to the character of the people at whose houses they call, *they chalk certain marks on their door-posts*." Another informant stated that "if

* Vol. i., pp. 218 and 247.

† See Dictionary.

a PATTERER* has been CRABBED (that is, offended) at any of the CRIES, (houses,) *he mostly chalks a signal at or near the door.*"

Another use is also made of these hieroglyphics. Charts of successful begging neighbourhoods are rudely drawn, and symbolical signs attached to each house to shew whether benevolent or adverse.† "In many cases there is over the kitchen mantel piece" of a tramps' lodging-house "*a map of the district*, dotted here and there with memorandums of failure or success."‡ A correct facsimile of one of these singular maps has been placed as a frontispiece. It was obtained from the patterers and tramps who supplied a great many words for this work, and who have been employed by me for some time in collecting Old Ballads, Christmas Carols, Dying Speeches, and Last Lamentations, as materials for a *History of Popular Literature*. The reader will no doubt be amused with the drawing. The locality depicted is near Maidstone, in Kent; and I am informed that it was probably sketched by a wandering SCREEVER§ in payment for a night's lodging. The English practice of marking everything, and scratching names on public property, extends itself to the tribe of vagabonds. On the map, as may be seen in the left-hand corner, some TRAVELLER§ has drawn a favourite or noted female, singularly nicknamed *Three-quarter Sarah*. What were

* See Dictionary.

† Sometimes, as appears from the following, the names of persons and houses are written instead. "In almost every one of the padding-kens, or low lodging-houses in the country, there is a list of walks pasted up over the kitchen mantel-piece. Now at St Albans, for instance, at the ——, and at other places, there is a paper stuck up in each of the kitchens. This paper is headed 'WALKS OUT OF THIS TOWN,' and underneath it is set down the names of the villages in the neighbourhood at which a beggar may call when out on his walk, and they are so arranged as to allow the cadger to make a round of about six miles each day, and return the same night. In many of these papers there are sometimes twenty walks set down. No villages that are in any way 'gammy' [bad] are ever mentioned in these papers, and the cadger, if he feels inclined to stop for a few days in the town, will be told by the lodging-house keeper, or the other cadgers that he may meet there, what gentlemen's seats or private houses are of any account on the walk that he means to take. The names of the good houses are not set down in the paper for fear of the police."—*Mayhew*, vol. i., p. 418.

‡ Mayhew, vol. i., p. 218.

§ See Dictionary.

the peculiar accomplishments of this lady to demand so uncommon a name, the reader will be at a loss to discover; but a patterer says it probably refers to a shuffling dance of that name, common in tramps' lodging-houses, and in which “*¶ Sarah*” may have been a proficient. Above her, three beggars or hawkers have reckoned their day's earnings, amounting to 13s.; and on the right a tolerably correct sketch of a low hawker, or costermonger, is drawn. “To Dover, the *nigh* way,” is the exact phraseology; and “hup here,” a fair specimen of the self-acquired education of the tribe of cadgers. No key or explanation to the hieroglyphics was given in the original, because it would have been superfluous, when every inmate of the lodging-house knew the marks from their cradle—or rather their mother's back.

Should there be no map, in most lodging-houses there is an old man who is guide to every “WALK” in the vicinity, and who can tell on every round each house that is “good for a cold tatur.” The hieroglyphics that are used are:—

- X** NO GOOD; too poor, and know too much.
- ‡** STOP,—If you have what they want, they will buy. They are pretty “*fly*,” (knowing)
- GO IN THIS DIRECTION, it is better than the other road. Nothing that way.
- ◊** BONE, (good.) Safe for a “cold tatur,” if for nothing else. “*Cheese your patter*” (don't talk much) here.
- ▽** COOPER'D, (spoilt,) by too many tramps calling there.
- GAMMY (unfavourable,) like to have you taken up. Mind the dog.
- FLUMMUXED, (dangerous,) sure of a month in “*quod*,” (prison.)
- ⊕** RELIGIOUS, but tidy on the whole.

Where did these signs come from, and when were they first used? are questions which I have asked myself again and again, whilst endeavouring to discover their history. Knowing the

character of the Gipsies, and ascertaining from a tramp that they are well acquainted with the hieroglyphics, "and have been as long ago as ever he could remember," I have little hesitation in ascribing the invention to them. And strange it would be if some modern Belzoni, or Champollion, discovered in these beggars' marks fragments of ancient Egyptian or Hindoo hieroglyphical writing ! But this, of course, is a simple vagary of the imagination.

That the Gipsies were in the habit of leaving memorials of the road they had taken, and the successes that had befallen them, there can be no doubt. In an old book, *The Triumph of Wit*, 1724, there is a passage which appears to have been copied from some older work, and it runs thus :—"The Gipsies set out twice a year, and scatter all over England, each parcel having their appointed stages, that they may not interfere, nor hinder each other ; and for that purpose, when they set forward in the country, *they stick up boughs in the way of divers kinds, according as it is agreed among them, that one company may know which way another is gone, and so take another road.*" The works of Hoyland and Borrow supply other instances.

I cannot close this subject without drawing attention to the extraordinary fact, that actually on the threshold of the gibbet the sign of the vagabond is to be met with ! "The murderer's signal is even exhibited from the gallows ; as a red hand-kerchief held in the hand of the felon about to be executed is a token that he dies without having betrayed any professional secrets."*

Since the first edition of this work was published, the author has received from various parts of England numerous evidences of the still active use of beggars' marks and mendicant hieroglyphics. One gentleman writes from Great Yarmouth to say

* *Mr Rawlinson's Report to the General Board of Health, Parish of Havant, Hampshire.*

that only a short time since, whilst residing in Norwich, he used frequently to see them on the houses and street corners in the suburbs. From another gentleman, a clergyman, I learn that he has so far made himself acquainted with the meanings of the signs employed, that by himself marking the characters ☐ (*Gammy*) and ☒ (*Flummuxed*) on the gate posts of his parsonage, he enjoys a singular immunity from alms-seekers and cadgers on the tramp.

In a popular constable's *Guide*, giving the practice of justices in petty sessions, I have recently met with the following interesting paragraph, corroborating what has just been said on the hieroglyphics used by vagabonds:—

“ Gipsies follow their brethren by numerous marks, such as strewing handfuls of grass in the day time at a four lane or cross roads; the grass being strewn down the road the gang have taken; also, by a cross being made on the ground with a stick or knife—the longest end of the cross denotes the route taken. In the night time a CLEFT STICK is placed in the fence at the cross roads, *with an arm pointing down the road* their comrades have taken. The marks are always placed on the left-hand side, so that the stragglers can easily and readily find them.” *

From the cleft stick here alluded to, we learn the origin and use of ☛, the third hieroglyphic in the vagabond's private list.

* *Snowden's Magistrate's Assistant*, 1852, p. 444.

"All ridiculous words make their first entry into a language by familiar phrases ; I dare not answer for these that they will not in time be looked upon as a part of our tongue."—Addison's *Spectator*.

A SHORT HISTORY OF SLANG, OR THE VULGAR LANGUAGE OF FAST LIFE.

SLANG is the language of street humour, of fast, high, and low life. CANT, as was stated in the chapter upon that subject, is the vulgar language of secrecy. They are both universal and ancient, and appear to have been the peculiar concomitants of gay, vulgar, or worthless persons in every part of the world at every period of time. Indeed, if we are to believe implicitly the saying of *the* wise man, that “there is nothing new under the sun,” the “fast” men of buried Nineveh, with their knotty and door-matty-looking beards, may have cracked Slang jokes on the steps of Sennacherib’s palace ; and the stocks and stones of ancient Egypt, and the bricks of venerable and used-up Babylon, may, for aught we know, be covered with Slang hieroglyphics, unknown to modern antiquaries, which have long been stumbling-blocks to the philologist ; so impossible is it at this day to say what was then authorised, or what vulgar language. Slang is as old as speech and the congregating together of people in cities. It is the result of crowding, and excitement, and artificial life. Even to the Classics it was not unknown, as witness the pages of Aristophanes and Plautus, Terence and Athenæus. Martial, the epigrammatist, is full of Slang. When an uninvited guest

accompanied his friend, the Slang of the day styled him his UMBRA ; when a man was trussed, neck and heels, it called him jocosely QUADRUPUS.

Old English Slang was coarser, and depended more upon downright vulgarity than our modern Slang. It was a jesting speech, or humorous indulgence for the thoughtless moment, or the drunken hour, and it acted as a vent-peg for a fit of temper or irritability ; but it did not interlard and permeate every description of conversation as now. It was confined to nicknames and improper subjects, and encroached but to a very small extent upon the domain of authorised speech. Indeed, it was exceedingly limited when compared with the vast territory of Slang in such general favour and complete circulation at the present day. Still, although not an alarming encumbrance, as in our time, Slang certainly did exist in this country centuries ago, as we may see if we look down the page of any respectable History of England. Cromwell was familiarly called OLD NOLL,—just the same as Bonaparte was termed BONEY, and Wellington CONKEY, or NOSEY, only a few years ago. His Legislature, too, was spoken of in a high-flavoured way as the BARBECONES, or RUMP Parliament, and his followers were nicknamed ROUNDHEADS, and the peculiar religious sects of his protectorate were styled PURITANS and QUAKERS.* The Civil-War pamphlets, and the satirical hits of the Cavaliers and the Commonwealth men, originated numerous Slang words and vulgar similes in full use at the present moment. Here is a field of inquiry for the Philological Society, indeed I may say a territory, for there are thirty thousand of these partisan tracts. Later still, in the court of Charles II., the naughty ladies and the gay lords, with Rochester at their head, talked Slang ; and very naughty Slang it was too ! Fops, in those days, when “over head and ears” in debt, and in

* This term, with a singular literal downrightness, which would be remarkable in any other people than the French, is translated by them as the *sect of Trembleurs*.

continual fear of arrest, termed their enemies, the bailiffs, PHILISTINES* or MOABITES. At a later period, when collars were worn detached from shirts, in order to save the expense of washing—an object it would seem with needy "swells" in all ages—they obtained the name of JACOBITES. One half of the coarse wit in Butler's *Hudibras* lurks in the vulgar words and phrases which he was so fond of employing. They were more homely and forcible than the mild and elegant sentences of Cowley, and the people, therefore, hurrahed them, and pronounced Butler one of themselves,—or, as we should say, in a joyful moment, "a jolly good fellow." Orator Henley preached and prayed in Slang, and first charmed and then swayed the dirty mobs in Lincoln's-Inn-Fields by vulgarisms. Burly Grose mentions Henley, with the remark that we owe a great many Slang phrases to him. Swift, and old Sir Roger L'Estrange, and Arbuthnot, were all fond of vulgar or Slang language; indeed, we may see from a Slang word used by the latter how curious is the gradual adoption of vulgar terms in our standard dictionaries. The worthy doctor, in order to annihilate (or, as we should say, with a fitting respect to the subject under consideration, SMASH) an opponent, thought proper on an occasion to use the word CABBAGE, not in the ancient and esculentary sense of a flatulent vegetable of the kitchen garden, but in the at once Slang sense of purloining or cribbing. Johnson soon met with the word, looked at it, examined it, weighed it, and shook his head, but out of respect to a brother doctor inserted it in his dictionary, labelling it, however, prominently "*Cant;*" whilst Walker and Webster, years after, when *to cabbage* was *to pilfer* all over England, placed the term in their dictionaries as an ancient and very respectable word. Another Slang term, GULL, to cheat, or delude, sometimes varied to GULLY, is stated to be connected with the Dean of St Patrick's. GULL, a dupe, or a fool, is often used by

* Swift alludes to this term in his *Art of Polite Conversation*, p. 14. 1738.

our old dramatists, and is generally believed to have given rise to the verb ; but a curious little edition of *Bamfylde Moore Carew*, published in 1827, says that to GULL, or GULLY, is derived from the well-known *Gulliver*, the hero of the famous *Travels*. How crammed with Slang are the dramatic works of the last century ! The writers of the comedies and farces in those days must have lived in the streets, and written their plays in the public houses, so filled are they with vulgarisms and unauthorised words. The popular phrases, "I owe you one," "That's one for his nob," and "Keep moving, dad," arose in this way.* The second of these sayings was, doubtless, taken from the card-table, for at cribbage the player who holds the knave of the suit turned up counts "one for his nob," and the dealer who turns up a knave counts "two for his heels."

In Mrs Centlivre's admirable comedy of *A Bold Stroke for a Wife*, we see the origin of that popular street phrase, THE REAL SIMON PURE. Simon Pure is the Quaker name adopted by Colonel Feignwell as a trick to obtain the hand of Mistress Anne Lovely in marriage. The veritable Quaker, the "real Simon Pure," recommended by Aminadab Holdfast, of Bristol, as a fit sojourner with Obadiah Prim, arrives at last, to the discomfiture of the Colonel, who, to maintain his position and gain time, concocts a letter in which the real Quaker is spoken of as a house-breaker who had travelled in the "leather convenience" from Bristol, and adopted the garb and name of the western Quaker in order to pass off as the "REAL SIMON PURE," but only for the purpose of robbing the house and cutting the throat of the perplexed Obadiah. The scene in which the two Simon Pures, the *real* and the *counterfeit*, meet, is one of the best in the comedy.

Tom Brown, of "facetious memory," as his friends were wont to say, and Ned Ward, who wrote humorous books, and when tired drew beer for his customers at his alehouse in Long

* See *Notes and Queries*, vol. i., p. 185. 1850.

Acre,* were both great producers of Slang in the last century, and to them we owe many popular current phrases and household words.

Written Slang was checked, rather than advanced, by the pens of Addison, Johnson, and Goldsmith; although John Bee, the bottle-holder and historiographer of the pugilistic band of brothers in the youthful days of flat-nosed Tom Crib, has gravely stated that Johnson, when young and rakish, contributed to an early volume of the *Gentleman's Magazine* a few pages, by way of specimen, of a Slang dictionary, the result, Mr Bee says, "of his midnight ramblings!"† And Goldsmith, I must not forget to remark, certainly coined a few words, although, as a rule, his pen was pure and graceful, and adverse to neologisms. The word FUDGE, it has been stated, was first used by him in literary composition,‡ although it originated with one Captain Fudge, a notorious fibber, nearly a century before. Street phrases, nicknames, and vulgar words were continually being added to the great stock of popular Slang up to the commencement of the present century, when it received numerous additions from pugilism, horse-racing, and "fast" life generally, which suddenly came into great public favour, and was at its height when the Prince Regent was in his rakish minority. Slang in those days was generally termed FLASH language. So popular was it with the "bloods" of high life, that it constituted the best paying literary capital for certain authors and dramatists. Pierce Egan issued *Boxiana*, and *Life in London*, six portly octavo volumes, crammed with Slang; and Moncrieff wrote the most popular farce of the day, *Tom and Jerry*, (adapted from the latter work,) which, to use newspaper Slang, "took the town by storm," and, with its then fashionable vulgarisms, made the fortune of the old Adelphi.

* He afterwards kept a tavern at Wapping, mentioned by Pope in the *Dunciad*.

† *Sportsman's Dictionary*, 1825, p. 15. I have searched the venerable magazine in vain for this Slang glossary.

‡ This is incorrect. See under FUDGE in the Dictionary.

Theatre, and was, without exception, the most wonderful instance of a continuous theatrical RUN in ancient or modern times. This, also, was brimful of Slang. Other authors helped to popularise and extend Slang down to our own time, when it has taken a somewhat different turn, dropping many of the Cant and old vulgar words, and assuming a certain quaint and fashionable phrasology—Frenchy, familiar, utilitarian, and jovial. There can be no doubt but that common speech is greatly influenced by fashion, fresh manners, and that general change of ideas which steals over a people once in a generation. But before I proceed further into the region of *Slang*, it will be well to say something on the etymology of the word.

The word SLANG is only mentioned by two lexicographers—Webster and Ogilvie.* Johnson, Walker, and the older compilers of dictionaries, give *slang* the preterite of *sling*, but not a word about SLANG in the sense of low, vulgar, or unrecognised language. The origin of the word has often been asked for in literary journals and books, but only one man, as far as I can learn, has ever hazarded an etymology—Jonathan Bee, the vulgar chronicler of the prize-ring.† With a recklessness peculiar to pugilism, Bee stated that SLANG was derived from “the *slangs* or fetters worn by prisoners, having acquired that name from the manner in which they were worn, as they required a sling of string to keep them off the ground.” Bee had just been nettled at Pierce Egan producing a new edition of Grose’s *Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue*, and was determined to excel him in a vulgar dictionary of his own, which should be more racy, more pugilistic, and more original. How far he succeeded in this latter particular, his ridiculous etymology of Slang will shew. SLANG is not an English word ; it is the Gipsy term for their secret language, and

* This introduction was written in 1859, before the new edition of Worcester, and Nuttal's recent work were published.

† Introduction to Bee's *Sportman's Dictionary*, 1825.

its synonyme is GIBBERISH—another word which was believed to have had no distinct origin.* Grose—stout and burly Captain Grose—whom we may characterise as the greatest antiquary, joker, and porter-drinker of his day, was the first lexicographer to recognise the word SLANG. It occurs in his *Classical Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue*, of 1785, with the signification that it implies “Cant or vulgar language.” Grose, I may remark in passing, was a great favourite with the poet Burns, and so pleased him by his extensive powers of story-telling and grog-imbibing, that the companionable and humour-loving Scotch bard wrote for his fat friend—or, to use his own words, “the fine, fat, fodgel wight”—the immortal poem of “Tam O’Shanter.”

Without troubling the reader with a long account of the transformation into an English term of the word SLANG, I may remark in passing that it is easily seen how we obtained it from the Gipsies. Hucksters and beggars on tramp, or at fairs and races, associate and frequently join in any rough enterprise with the Gipsies.† The word would be continually heard by them, and would in this manner soon become CANT;‡ and, when carried by “fast” or vulgar fashionables from the society of thieves and low characters to their own drawing-rooms, would as quickly become SLANG, and the representative term for all vulgar or Slang language.

* The Gipsies use the word Slang as the Anglican synonyme for Romany, the continental (or rather Spanish) term for the Cingari or Gipsy tongue. Crabb, who wrote the *Gipsies’ Advocate* in 1832, thus mentions the word:—“This language [Gipsy] called by themselves SLANG, or GIBBERISH, invented, as they think, by their forefathers for secret purposes, is not merely the language of one or a few of these wandering tribes, which are found in the European nations, but is adopted by the vast numbers who inhabit the earth.”

† See what the Druid says, in *Silk and Scarlet, Post and Paddock*, and his other sporting works, about the card-sellers, booth-men, horse-holders, cockshy-men, and other well-known frequenters of race-courses.

‡ The word SLANG assumed various meanings amongst costermongers, beggars, and vagabonds of all orders. It was, and is still, used to express “cheating by false weights,” “a raree show,” “retiring by a back door,” “a watch-chain,” their “secret language,” &c.

Any sudden excitement, peculiar circumstance, or popular literary production, is quite sufficient to originate and set a-going a score of Slang words. Nearly every election or public agitation throws out offshoots of the excitement, or scintillations of the humour in the shape of Slang terms—vulgar at first, but at length adopted as semi-respectable from the force of habit and custom. There is scarcely a condition or calling in life that does not possess its own peculiar Slang. The professions, legal and medical, have each familiar and unauthorised terms for peculiar circumstances and things, and I am quite certain that the clerical calling, or "*the cloth*," is not entirely free from this peculiarity. Every workshop, warehouse, factory, and mill throughout the country has its Slang, and so have the public schools of Eton, Harrow, and Westminster, and the great Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. Sea Slang constitutes the principal charm of a sailor's "yarn;" and our soldiers and officers have each their peculiar nicknames and terms for things and subjects proper and improper. A writer in *Household Words* (No. 183) has gone so far as to remark, that a person "shall not read one single parliamentary debate, as reported in a first-class newspaper, without meeting scores of Slang words;" and "that from Mr Speaker in his chair, to the Cabinet Ministers whispering behind it—from mover to seconder, from true-blue Protectionist to extremest Radical—Mr Barry's New House echoes and re-echoes with Slang." Really it seems as if our boasted English tongue were a very paltry and ill-provided contrivance after all; or can it be that we are the most vulgar of people?

The universality of Slang is extraordinary. Let any person for a short time narrowly examine the conversation of their dearest and nearest friends, ay, censor-like, even slice and analyse their own supposed correct talk, and they shall be amazed at the numerous unauthorised, and what we can only call vulgar, words they continually employ. It is not the number of new

words that we are ever introducing that is so reprehensible, there is not so much harm in this practice (frequently termed in books "the licence of expression") if neologisms are really required, but it is the continually encumbering of *old* words with fresh and strange meanings. Look at those simple and useful verbs, *do*, *cut*, *go*, and *take*, and see how they are hampered and overloaded, and then let us ask ourselves how is it possible for a French or German gentleman, be he ever so well educated, to avoid continually blundering and floundering amongst our *little* words when trying to make himself understood in an ordinary conversation? He may have studied our language the required time, and have gone through the usual amount of "grinding," and practised the common allotment of patience, but all to no purpose as far as accuracy is concerned. I am aware that most new words are generally regarded as Slang, although afterwards they may become useful and respectable additions to our standard dictionaries. JABBER and HOAX were Slang and Cant terms in Swift's time ; so indeed were MOB and SHAM.* Words directly from the Latin and Greek, and Carlyleisms, are allowed by an indulgent public to pass and take their places in books. Sound contributes many Slang words—a source that etymologists too frequently overlook. Nothing pleases an ignorant person so much as a high-sounding term "full of fury." How melodious and drum-like are those vulgar coruscations RUMBUMPTIOUS, SLANTINGDICULAR, SPLENDIFEROUS,† RUMBUSTIOUS, and FERRICADOUZER. What a "pull" the sharp-nosed lodging-house-keeper thinks she has over her victims if she can but hurl such testimonies of a liberal

* North, in his *Examen*, p. 574, says, "I may note that the rabble first changed their title, and were called the MOB in the assemblies of this [Green Ribbon] club. It was their beasts of burden, and called first *mobile vulgus*, but fell naturally into the contraction of one syllable, and ever since is become proper English." In the same work, p. 231, the disgraceful origin of SHAM is given.

† It is somewhat singular that Drayton, the poet of Queen Elizabeth's time, should have coined a similar word, SPLENDIDIOUS. The Latin, *Splendidius*, however, was probably what he meant to employ.

education at them when they are disputing her charges, and threatening to ABSQUATULATE! In the United States the vulgar-genteel even excel the poor "stuck-up" Cockneys in their formation of a native fashionable language. How charming to a refined ear are ADSKIZE, CATAWAMPOUSLY, EXFLUNCTIFY, ODSCUTE, KESLOSH, KESOUSE, KESWOLLOP, and KEWHOLLUX! Vulgar words representing action and brisk movement often owe their origin to sound. Mispronunciation, too, is another great source of vulgar or Slang words—RAMSHACKLE, SHACKLY, NARY-ONE for neither or neither one, OTTOMY or ATOMY for anatomy, RENCH for rinse, are specimens. The commonalty dislike frequently-occurring words difficult of pronunciation, and so we have the street abridgments of BIMERY for by and by, CAZE for because, GIN for given, HANKERCHER for handkerchief, RUMATIZ for rheumatism, BACKY for tobacco, and many others, not perhaps Slang, but certainly all vulgarisms. Archbishop Whately, in his interesting *Remains of Bishop Copleston*, has inserted a leaf from the Bishop's note-book on the popular corruption of names, mentioning among others KICKSHAWS, as from the French, *quelques choses*; BEEFEATER, the lubberly guardian of royalty in a procession, and the supposed devourer of enormous beefsteaks, as but a vulgar pronunciation of the French, *buffetier*; and GEORGE and CANNON, the sign of a public-house, as nothing but a corruption (although so soon!) of the popular premier of the last generation, *George Canning*. Literature has its Slang terms; and the desire on the part of writers to say funny and startling things in a novel and curious way (the late *Household Words*,* for instance) contributes many unauthorised words to the great stock of Slang.

Fashionable or Upper-class Slang is of several varieties. There is the Belgravian, military and naval, parliamentary, dandy, and

* It is rather singular that this popular journal should have contained a long article on *Slang* a short time ago.

the reunion and visiting Slang. English officers, civilians, and their families, who have resided long in India, have contributed many terms from the Hindostanee to our language. Several of these, such as CHIT, a letter, or TIFFIN, lunch, are fast losing their Slang character, and becoming regularly-recognised English words. JUNGLE, as a term for a forest or wilderness, is now an English phrase; a few years past, however, it was merely the Hindostanee JUNKUL. The extension of trade in China, and the English settlement at Hong Kong, have introduced among us several examples of Canton Jargon, that exceedingly curious Anglo-Chinese dialect spoken in the seaports of the Celestial Empire. While these words have been carried as it were into the families of the upper and middle classes, persons in a humbler rank of life, through the sailors, soldiers, Lascar and Chinese beggars that haunt the metropolis, have also adopted many Anglo-Indian and Anglo-Chinese phrases. As this Dictionary would have been incomplete without them, they are all carefully recorded in its columns. Concerning the Slang of the fashionable world, a writer in *Household Words* curiously, but not altogether truthfully, remarks, that it is mostly imported from France; and that an unmeaning gibberish of Gallicisms runs through English fashionable conversation, and fashionable novels, and accounts of fashionable parties in the fashionable newspapers. Yet, ludicrously enough, immediately the fashionable magnates of England seize on any French idiom, the French themselves not only universally abandon it to us, but positively repudiate it altogether from their idiomatic vocabulary. If you were to tell a well-bred Frenchman that such and such an aristocratic marriage was on the *tapis*, he would stare with astonishment, and look down on the carpet in the startled endeavour to find a marriage in so unusual a place. If you were to talk to him of the *beau monde*, he would imagine you meant the world which God made, not half-a-dozen streets and squares between Hyde Park

Corner and Chelsea Bun House. The *thé dansante** would be completely inexplicable to him. If you were to point out to him the Dowager Lady Grimgriffin acting as *chaperon* to Lady Amanda Creamville, he would imagine you were referring to the *petit Chaperon rouge*—to little Red-Riding Hood. He might just understand what was meant by *vis-à-vis*, *entremets*, and some others of the flying horde of frivolous little foreign slangisms hovering about fashionable cookery and fashionable furniture ; but three-fourths of them would seem to him as barbarous French provincialisms, or, at best, but as antiquated and obsolete expressions, picked out of the letters of Mademoiselle Scuderi, or the tales of Crebillon the “younger.” Servants, too, appropriate the scraps of French conversation which fall from their masters’ guests at the dinner table, and forthwith in the world of flunkeydom the word “know” is disused, and the lady’s-maid, in doubt on a particular point, asks John whether or no he ~~saves~~ it ?* What, too, can be more abominable than that heartless piece of fashionable newspaper Slang, regularly employed when speaking of the successful courtship of young people in the fashionable world :—

MARRIAGE IN HIGH LIFE.—We understand that a marriage is ARRANGED (!) betwixt the Lady, &c. &c., and the Honourable, &c. &c.

ARRANGED ! Is that cold-blooded Smithfield or Mark-Lane term for a sale or a purchase the proper word to express the hopeful, joyous, golden union of young and trustful hearts ? Which is the proper way to pronounce the names of great people, and what the correct authority ? Lord Cowper, we are often assured, is Lord Cooper—on this principle Lord Cowley would certainly be Lord Cooley—and Mr Carew, we are told, should be Mr

* The writer is quite correct in instancing this piece of fashionable twaddle. The mongrel formation is exceedingly amusing to a polite Parisian.

† Savez-vous cela?

Carey, Ponsonby should be *Punsunby*, Eyre should be *Aire*, Cholmondeley should be *Chumley*, St John *Singen*, Majoribanks *Marshbanks*, and Powell should always be *Poel*. I don't know that these lofty persons have as much cause to complain of the illiberality of fate in giving them disagreeable names as did the celebrated Psyche, (as she was termed by Tom Moore,) whose original name, through her husband, was *Teague*, but which was afterwards altered to Tighe. The pronunciation of proper names has long been an anomaly in the conversation of the upper classes of this country. Hodge and Podge, the clodhoppers of Shakspeare's time, talked in their mug-houses of the great Lords *Darbie*, *Barkelie*, and *Bartie*. In Pall Mall and May Fair these personages are spoken of in exactly the same manner at the present day, whilst in the City, and amongst the *middle* classes, we only hear of Derby, Berkley, &c., — the correct pronunciations, if the spelling is worth aught. A costermonger is ignorant of such a place as Birmingham, but understands you in a moment if you talk of *Brummagem*. Why do not Pall Mall join with the costermongers in this pronunciation? It is the ancient one.*

Parliamentary Slang, excepting a few peculiar terms connected with "the House," (scarcely Slang, I suppose,) is mainly composed of fashionable, literary, and learned Slang. When members, however, get excited, and wish to be forcible, they are often not very particular which of the street terms they select, providing it carries, as good old Dr South said, plenty of "wild-fire" in it. Sir Hugh Cairns very lately spoke of "that homely but expressive phrase, DODGE." Out of "the House," several Slang terms are used in connexion with Parliament or members of Parliament. If Lord Palmerston is known by name to the

* At page 24 of a curious old Civil-War tract, entitled, *The Oxonian Antipodes*, by I. B., Gent., 1644, the town is called BRUMMIDGHAM, and this was the general rendering in the printed literature of the seventeenth century.

tribes of the Caucasus and Asia Minor as a great foreign diplomatist, when the name of our Queen Victoria is an unknown title to the inhabitants of those parts—as was stated in the *Times* a short time ago—I have only to remark that amongst the costers and the wild inhabitants of the streets he is better known as PAM. I have often heard the cabmen on the “ranks” in Piccadilly remark of the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he has been going from his residence at Grosvenor Gate to Derby House in St James’s Square, “Hollo, there! do yer see old DIZZY doing a stump?” A PLUMPER is a single vote at an election—not a SPLIT-TICKET; and electors who have occupied a house, no matter how small, and boiled a pot in it, thus qualifying themselves for voting, are termed POT-WALLOPERS. A quiet WALK OVER is a re-election without opposition and much cost. A CAUCUS meeting refers to the private assembling of politicians before an election, when candidates are chosen, and measures of action agreed upon. The term comes from America. A JOB, in political phraseology, is a government office or contract obtained by secret influence or favouritism. Only the other day the *Times* spoke of “the patriotic member of Parliament POTTED OUT in a dusty little lodging somewhere about Bury Street.” The term QUOCKERWODGER, although referring to a wooden toy figure which jerks its limbs about when pulled by a string, has been supplemented with a political meaning. A pseudo-politician, one whose strings of action are pulled by somebody else, is now often termed a QUOCKERWODGER. The term RAT, too, in allusion to rats deserting vessels about to sink, has long been employed towards those turncoat politicians who change their party for interest. Who that occasionally passes near the Houses of Parliament has not often noticed stout or careful M.P.s walk briskly through the Hall, and on the curb-stone in front, with umbrella or walking cane uplifted, shout to the cabmen on the rank, FOUR-WHEELER! The term is a useful one, but I am afraid

we must consider it Slang, until it is stamped with the mint mark of lexicographical authority.*

Military, or Officers' Slang, is on a par, and of a character, with *Dandy Slang*. Inconvenient friends, or elderly and lecturing relatives, are pronounced DREADFUL BORES. Four-wheeled cabs are called BOUNDERS; and a member of the Four-in-hand Club, driving to Epsom on the Derby Day, would, using fashionable phraseology, speak of it as TOOLING HIS DRAG DOWN TO THE DERBY. A vehicle, if not a DRAG (or dwag) is a TRAP, or a CASK; and if the TURN OUT happens to be in other than a trim condition, it is pronounced at once as not DOWN THE ROAD. Your City swell would say it is not UP TO THE MARK; whilst the costermonger would call it WERY DICKEY. In the army a barrack or military station is known as a LOBSTER-BOX; to "cram" for an examination is to MUG-UP; to reject from the examination is to SPIN; and that part of the barrack occupied by subalterns is frequently spoken of as the ROOKERY. In dandy or swell Slang, any celebrity, from Paul Bedford, to the Pope of Rome, is a SWELL. Wrinkled-faced old professors, who hold dress and fashionable tailors in abhorrence, are called AWFUL SWELLS,—if they happen to be very learned or clever. I may remark that in this upper-class Slang, a title is termed a HANDLE; trousers, INEXPRESSIBLES; or, when of a large pattern, or the inflated Zouave cut, HOWLING BAGS; a superior appearance, EXTENSIVE; a four-wheeled cab, a BIRDCAGE; a dance, a HOP; dining at another man's table, "sitting under his MAHOGANY;" anything flashy or showy, LOUD; the peculiar make or cut of a coat, its BUILD; full dress, FULL-FIG; wearing clothes which re-

* From an early period polities and partyism have attracted unto themselves quaint Slang terms. Horace Walpole quotes a party nickname of February 1742, as a Slang word of the day:—"The Tories declare against any further prosecution, if Tories there are, for now one hears of nothing but the BROAD-BOTTOM; it is the reigning Cant word, and means the taking all parties and people, indifferently, into the Ministry." Thus BROAD-BOTTOM in those days was Slang for *coalition*.

present the very extreme of fashion, "dressing to DEATH;" a reunion, a SPREAD; a friend, (or a "good fellow,") a TRUMP; a difficulty, a SCREW LOOSE; and everything that is unpleasant, "from bad sherry to a writ from a tailor," JEUCED INFERNAL. The military phrase, "to send a man to COVENTRY," or permit no person to speak to him, although an ancient saying, must still be considered Slang.

The *Universities of Oxford and Cambridge*, and the great public schools, are the hotbeds of fashionable Slang. Growing boys and high-spirited young fellows detest restraint of all kinds, and prefer making a dash at life in a Slang phraseology of their own, to all the set forms and syntactical rules of *Alma Mater*. Many of the most expressive words in a common chit-chat, or free-and-easy conversation, are old university vulgarisms. CUT, in the sense of dropping an acquaintance, was originally a Cambridge form of speech; and HOAX, to deceive or ridicule, we are informed by Grose, was many years since an Oxford term. Among the words that fast society has borrowed from our great scholastic (I was going to say *establishments*, but I remember the linen-drapers' horrid and habitual use of the word) institutions, I find CRIB, a house or apartments; DEAD-MEN, empty wine bottles; DRAWING TEETH,* wrenching off knockers; FIZZING, first-rate, or splendid; GOVERNOR, or RELIEVING-OFFICER, the general term for a male parent; PLUCKED, defeated or turned back; QUIZ, to scrutinise, or a prying old fellow; and now, a noisy disturbance. The Slang words in use at Oxford and Cambridge would alone fill a volume. As examples I may instance SCOUT, which at Oxford refers to an undergraduate's valet, whilst the same menial at Cambridge is termed a GYP,—popularly derived by the Cantabs from the Greek, GYPS, ($\gamma\psi\pi$) a vulture; SCULL, the head, or master of a college; BATTLES, the Oxford

* This is more especially an amusement with medical students, and is comparatively unknown out of London.

term for rations, changed at Cambridge into COMMONS. The term DICKIE, a half shirt, I am told, originated with the students of Trinity College, Dublin, who at first styled it a TOMMY, from the Greek, *τομή*, a section. CRIB, a literal translation, is now universal; GRIND refers to "working up" for an examination, also, to a walk, or "constitutional;" HIVITE is a student of St Begh's (St Bee's) College, Cumberland; to JAPAN, in this Slang speech, is to ordain; MORTAR-BOARD is a square college cap; SIM, a student of a Methodistical turn—in allusion to the Rev. Charles Simeon; SLOGGERS, at Cambridge, refers to the second division of race boats, known at Oxford as TORPLIDS; SPORT is to shew or exhibit; TROTTER is the jocular term for a tailor's man who goes round for orders; and TUFTS are wealthy students who dine with the DONS, and are distinguished by golden *tufts*, or tassels, in their caps. There are many terms in use at Oxford not known at Cambridge; and such Slang names as COACH, GULF, HARRY-SOPH, POKER, or POST-MORTEM, common enough at Cambridge, are seldom or never heard at the great sister university. For numerous other examples of college Slang the reader is referred to the Dictionary.

Religious Slang, strange as the compound may appear, exists with other descriptions of vulgar speech at the present day. *Punch*, a short time since, in one of those half-humorous, half-serious articles in which he is so fond of lecturing any national abuse or popular folly, remarked that Slang had "long since penetrated into the Forum, and now we meet it in the Senate, *and even the pulpit itself is no longer free from its intrusion.*" I would not, for one moment, wish to infer that the practice is general. On the contrary, and in justice to the clergy, it must be said that the principal disseminators of pure English throughout the country are the ministers of our Established Church. Yet it cannot be denied but that a great deal of Slang phraseology and disagreeable vulgarity have gradually crept into the

very pulpits which should give forth as pure speech as doctrine.

Dean Conybeare, in his able *Essay on Church Parties*,* has noticed this wretched addition to our pulpit speech. As stated in his Essay, the practice appears to confine itself mainly to the exaggerated forms of the High and Low Church—the Tractarians and the “Recordites.”† By way of illustration, the Dean cites the evening parties, or social meetings, common amongst the wealthier lay members of the Recordite (exaggerated Evangelical) Churches, where the principal topics discussed—one or more favourite clergymen being present in a quasi-official manner—are “the merits and demerits of different preachers, the approaching restoration of the Jews, the date of the Millennium, the progress of the ‘Tractarian heresy,’ and the anticipated ‘perversion’ of High-Church neighbours.” These subjects are canvassed in a dialect differing considerably from common English. The words FAITHFUL, TAINTED, ACCEPTABLE, DECIDED, LEGAL, and many others, are used in a technical sense. We hear that Mr A. has been more OWNED than Mr B.; and that Mr C. has more SEALS ‡ than Mr D. Again, the word GRACIOUS is invested with a meaning as extensive as that attached by young ladies to *nice*. Thus, we hear of a “GRACIOUS sermon,” a “GRACIOUS meeting,” a “GRACIOUS child,” and even a “GRACIOUS whipping.” The word DARK has also a new and peculiar usage. It is applied to every person, book, or place, not impregnated with Recordite principles. We once were witnesses of a ludicrous misunderstanding resulting from this phraseology. “What did you mean,” said A. to B., “by telling me that —— was such a very DARK village? I rode over there to-day, and found the street particularly broad and

* *Edinburgh Review*, October 1853.

† A term derived from the *Record Newspaper*, the exponent of this singular section of the Low, or so-called Evangelical Church.

‡ A preacher is said, in this phraseology, to be OWNED when he makes many converts, and his converts are called his SEALS.

cheerful, and there is not a tree in the place." "*The gospel is not preached there,*" was B.'s laconic reply. The conclusion of one of these singular evening parties is generally marked by an "*exposition*"—an unseasonable sermon of nearly one hour's duration, circumscribed by no text, and delivered from the table by one of the clerical visitors with a view to "improve the occasion." In the same Essay, the religious Slang terms for the two great divisions of the Established Church receive some explanation. The old-fashioned High-Church party—rich and "stagnant," noted for its "sluggish mediocrity, hatred of zeal, dread of innovation, abuse of Dissent, blundering and languid utterance"—is called the HIGH AND DRY; whilst the corresponding division, known as the Low Church—equally stagnant with the former, but poorer, and more lazily inclined (from absence of education) to Dissent—receives the nickname of the LOW AND SLOW. Already have these terms become so familiar that they are shortened, in ordinary conversation, to the DRY and the SLOW. The so-called "Broad Church," I should remark, is often spoken of as the BROAD AND SHALLOW.

What can be more objectionable than the irreverent and offensive manner in which many of the Dissenting ministers continually pronounce the names of the Deity—God and Lord? God, instead of pronouncing in the plain and beautiful simple old English way, G-O-D, they drawl out into CORDE or GAUDE; and Lord, instead of speaking in the proper way, they desecrate into LOARD or LOERD,—lingering on the *u*, or the *r*, as the case may be, until an honest hearer feels disgusted, and almost inclined to run the gantlet of beadles and deacons, and pull the vulgar preacher from his pulpit. I have observed that many young preachers strive hard to acquire this peculiar pronunciation, in imitation of the older ministers. What can more properly, then, be called Slang, or, indeed, the most objectionable of Slang, than this studious endeavour to pronounce the most

sacred names in a uniformly vulgar and unbecoming manner? If the old-fashioned preacher whistled Cant through his nose, the modern vulgar reverend whines Slang from the more natural organ. These vagaries of speech will, perhaps, by an apologist, be termed "pulpit peculiarities," and the writer dared to intermeddle with a subject that is or should be removed from his criticisms. The terms used by the mob towards the Church, however illiberal and satirically vulgar, are within his province in such an inquiry as the present. A clergyman, in vulgar language, is spoken of as a CHOKER, a CUSHION-THUMPER, a DOMINIE, an EARWIG, a GOSPEL-GRINDER, a GRAY-COAT PARSON; if he is a lessee of the great tithes, ONE IN TEN, PADRE; if spoken of by an Anglo-Indian, a ROOK, a SPOUTER, a WHITE-CHOKER, or a WARMING-PAN RECTOR, if he only holds the living *pro tempore*, or is simply keeping the place warm for his successor. If a Tractarian, his outer garment is rudely spoken of as a PYCOSTOLE, or M.B. (MARK OF THE BEAST) COAT. His profession is termed THE CLOTH, and his practice TUB-THUMPING. Should he belong to the Dissenting body, he is probably styled a PAN-TILER, or a PSALM-SMITER, or, perhaps, a SWADDLER. His chapel, too, is spoken of as a SCHISM SHOP. A Roman Catholic, I may remark, is coarsely named a BRISKET-BEATER.

Particular as lawyers generally are about the meaning of words, they have not prevented an unauthorised phraseology from arising, which we may term *Legal Slang*. So forcibly did this truth impress a late writer, that he wrote in a popular journal, "You may hear Slang every day in term from barristers in their robes, at every mess-table, at every bar-mess, at every college commons, and in every club dining-room." Swift, in his *Art of Polite Conversation*, (p. 15,) published a century and a half ago, states that VARDI was the Slang in his time for "verdict." A few of the most common and well-known terms used out of doors, with reference to legal matters, are COOK, to hash or make up a bal-

ance-sheet; DIPPED, mortgaged; DUN, to solicit payment; FULLIED, to be "*fully committed for trial*;" LAND-SHARK, a sailor's definition of a lawyer; LIMB OF THE LAW, a milder term for the same "professional;" MONKEY WITH A LONG TAIL, a mortgage—phrase used in the well-known case for libel, Smith v. Jones; MOUTHPIECE, the coster's term for his counsel; "to go through the RING," to take advantage of the Insolvency Act; SMASH, to become bankrupt; SNIPE, an attorney with a long bill; and WHITEWASHED, said of any debtor who has taken the benefit of the Insolvent Act. Lawyers, from their connexion with the police courts, and transactions with persons in every grade of society, have ample opportunities for acquiring street Slang, which, in cross-questioning and wrangling, they frequently avail themselves of.

It has been said there exists a *Literary Slang*, or "the *Slang of Criticism*—dramatic, artistic, and scientific. Such words as 'æsthetic,' 'transcendental,' the 'harmonies,' the 'unities,' a 'myth:' such phrases as 'an exquisite *morceau* on the big drum,' a 'scholarlike rendering of John the Baptist's great toe,' 'keeping harmony,' 'middle distance,' 'aerial perspective,' 'delicate handling,' 'nervous chiaroscuro,' and the like." More than one literary journal that I could name are fond of employing such terms in their art-criticisms; but it is questionable, after all, whether they are not allowable as the generous inflections and bendings of a bountiful language, for the purpose of expressing fresh phases of thought, and ideas not yet provided with representative words.* The well-known and ever-acceptable *Punch*, with his fresh and choice little pictorial bits by Leech, often employs a Slang term to give point to a joke, or humour to a

* "All our newspapers contain more or less colloquial words; in fact, there seems no other way of expressing certain ideas connected with passing events of every-day life with the requisite force and piquancy. In the English newspapers the same thing is observable, and certain of them contain more of the class denominated Slang words than our own."—*Bartlett's Americanisms*, p. 10, &c.

line of satire. A short time since (4th May 1859) he gave an original etymology of the schoolboy-ism SLOG. SLOG, said the classical and studious *Punch*, is derived from the Greek word SLOGO, to baste, to wallop, to slaughter. And it was not long ago that he amused his readers with two columns on *Slang* and *Sanskrit* :—

“The allegory which pervades the conversation of all Eastern nations,” remarked the philosophical *Punch*, “is the foundation of Western Slang; and the increased number of students of the Oriental languages, especially since Sanscrit and Arabic have been made subjects for the Indian Civil Service examinations, may have contributed to supply the English language with a large portion of its new dialect. While, however, the spirit of allegory comes from the East, there is so great a difference between the brevity of Western expression and the more cumbersome diction of the Oriental, that the origin of a phrase becomes difficult to trace. Thus, for instance, whilst the Turkish merchant might address his friend somewhat as follows—‘That which seems good to my father is to his servant as the perfumed breath of the west wind in the calm night of the Arabian summer;’ the Western negotiator observes more briefly, ‘ALL SERENE!’”

But the vulgar term, BRICK, *Punch* remarks, in illustration,

“must be allowed to be an exception, its Greek derivation being universally admitted, corresponding so exactly as it does in its rectangular form and compactness to the perfection of manhood, according to the views of Plato and Simonides; but any deviation from the simple expression, in which locality is indicated,—as, for instance, ‘a genuine Bath,’—decidedly breathes the Oriental spirit.”

It is singular that what *Punch* says unwittingly and in humour respecting the Slang expression, BOSH, should be quite true. BOSH, remarks *Punch*, after speaking of it as belonging to the stock of words pilfered from the Turks, “is one whose innate force and beauty the slangographer is reluctantly compelled to admit. It is the only word which seems a proper appellation for a great deal which we are obliged to hear and to read every day of our life.” BOSH, nonsense or stupidity, is derived from the

Gipsy and the Persian. The universality of Slang, I may here remark, is proved by its continual use in the pages of *Punch*. Whoever thinks, unless belonging to a past generation, of asking a friend to explain the stray vulgar words employed by the *London Charivari*?

The *Athenæum*, the most learned and censor-like of all the "weeklies," often indulges in a Slang word, when force of expression or a little humour is desired, or when the writer wishes to say something which is better said in Slang, or so-called vulgar speech, than in the authorised language of Dr Johnson or Lindley Murray. It was but the other day that a writer in its pages employed an old and favourite word, used always when we were highly pleased with any article at school—STUNNING. Bartlett, the compiler of the *Dictionary of Americanisms*, continually cites the *Athenæum* as using Slang and vulgar expressions; but the magazine the American refers to is not the excellent literary journal which is so esteemed at the present day—it was a smaller, and now defunct "weekly." Many other highly respectable journals often use Slang words and phrases. The *Times* (or, in Slang, the THUNDERER) frequently employs unauthorised terms; and, following a "leader" * of the purest and most eloquent composition, may sometimes be seen another "article" * on a totally different subject, containing, perhaps, a score or more of exceedingly questionable words. Among the words and phrases which may be included under the head of Literary Slang are, BALAAM, matter kept constantly in type about monstrous productions of nature, to fill up spaces in newspapers; BALAAM-BOX, the term given in *Blackwood* to the repository for rejected articles; and SLATE, to pelt with abuse, or CUT UP in a review. The Slang names given to newspapers are curious;—thus, the *Morning*

* The terms *leader* and *article* can scarcely be called Slang, yet it would be desirable to know upon what authority they were first employed in their present peculiar sense.

Advertiser is known as the TAP-TUB, the TIZER, and the GIN AND GOSPEL GAZETTE. The *Morning Post* has obtained the suggestive sobriquet of JEAMES; whilst the *Morning Herald* has long been caricatured as MRS HARRIS, and the *Standard* as MRS GAMP.*

The Stage, of course, has its Slang—"both before and behind the curtain," as a journalist remarks. The stage-manager is familiarly termed DADDY; and an actor by profession, or a "professional," is called a PRO. A man who is occasionally hired at a trifling remuneration to come upon the stage as one of a crowd, or when a number of actors are wanted to give effect, is named a SUP,—an abbreviation of "supernumerary." A SURF is a third-rate actor who frequently pursues another calling; and the band, or orchestra between the pit and the stage, is generally spoken of as the MENAGERY. A BEN is a benefit: and SAL is the Slang abbreviation of "salary." Should no wages be forthcoming on the Saturday night, it is said that the GHOST DOESN'T WALK. The travelling or provincial theatricals, who perform in any large room that can be rented in a country village, are called BARN-STORMERS. A LENGTH is forty-two lines of any dramatic composition; and a RUN is the good or bad success of a performance. A SADDLE is the additional charge made by a manager to an actor or actress upon their benefit night. To MUG UP is to paint one's face, or arrange the person to represent a particular character; to CORPSE, or to STICK, is to balk, or put the other actors out in their parts by forgetting yours. A performance is spoken of as either a GOOSER or a SCREAMER, should it be a failure or a great success;—if the latter, it is not infrequently termed a HIT. To STAR IT is to perform as the centre of attraction, with none but subordinates and indifferent actors in the same performance. The expressive term CLAP-TRAP, high-sounding nonsense, is nothing but an ancient theatrical term, and

* For some account of the origin of these nicknames see under MRS HARRIS in the Dictionary.

signified a TRAP to catch a CLAP by way of applause. "Up amongst the GODS," refers to being among the spectators in the gallery,—termed in French Slang PARADIS.

There exists, too, in the great territory of vulgar speech what may not inappropriately be termed *Civic Slang*. It consists of mercantile and Stock-Exchange terms, and the Slang of good living and wealth. A turkey hung with sausages is facetiously styled AN ALDERMAN IN CHAINS; and a half-crown, perhaps from its rotundity, is often termed an ALDERMAN. A BEAR is a speculator on the Exchange; and a BULL, although of another order, follows a like profession. There is something very humorous and applicable in the Slang term LAME DUCK, a defaulter in stock-jobbing speculations. The allusion to his "waddling out of the Alley," as they say, is excellent. BREAKING SHINS, in City Slang, is borrowing money; a rotten or unsound scheme is spoken of as FISHY; "RIGGING the market" means playing tricks with it; and STAG was a common term during the railway mania for a speculator without capital, a seller of "scrip" in "Diddlesex Junction" and other equally safe lines. In Lombard Street a MONKEY is £500, a PLUM £100,000, and a MARYGOLD is one million sterling. But before I proceed further in a sketch of the different kinds of Slang, I cannot do better than speak here of the extraordinary number of Cant and Slang terms in use to represent money—from farthings to bank-notes the value of fortunes. *Her Majesty's coin, collectively or in the piece, is insulted by no less than one hundred and thirty distinct Slang words,* from the humble BROWN (a halfpenny) to FLIMSIES, or LONG-TAILED ONES, (bank-notes.)

"Money," it has been well remarked, "the bare, simple word itself, has a sonorous, significant ring in its sound," and might have sufficed, one would have imagined, for all ordinary purposes. But a vulgar or "fast" society has thought differently, and so we have the Slang synomyms—BEANS, BLUNT, (*i. e.*, specie,—not stiff

or *rags*, bank-notes,) BRADS, BRASS, BUSTLE, COPPERS, (copper money, or mixed pence,) CHINK, CHINKERS, CHIPS, CORKS, DIBBS, DINARILY, DIMMOCK, DUST, FEATHERS, GENT, (silver,—from *argent*,) HADDOCK, (a purse of money,) HORSE NAILS, LOAVER, LOUR, (the oldest Cant term for money,) MOPUSSES, NEEDFUL, NOBBINGS, (money collected in a hat by street-performers,) OCHRE, (gold,) PEWTER, PALM OIL, POSH, QUEEN'S PICTURES, QUIDS, RAGS, (bank-notes,) READY, OR READY GILT, REDGE, (gold,) RHINO, ROWDY, SHINERS, (sovereigns,) SKIN, (a purse of money,) STIFF, (paper, or bill of acceptance,) STUFF, STUMPY, TIN, (silver,) WEDGE, (silver,) and YELLOW-BOYS, (sovereigns ;)—just forty-three vulgar equivalents for the simple word *money*. So attentive is Slang speech to financial matters, that there are seven terms for bad, or “*bogus*” coin, (as our friends, the Americans, call it :) a CASE is a counterfeit five-shilling piece ; HALF A CASE represents half that sum ; GRAYS are halfpence made double for gambling purposes ; QUEER-SOFT is counterfeit or lead coin ; SCHOFEL refers to coated or spurious coin ; SHEEN is bad money of any description ; and SINKEES bears the same and not inappropriate meaning. FLYING THE KITE, or obtaining money on bills and promissory-notes, is closely connected with the allegorical expression of RAISING THE WIND, which is a well-known phrase for procuring money by immediate sale, pledging, or by a forced loan. In winter or in summer any elderly gentleman who may have prospered in life is pronounced WARM ; whilst an equivalent is immediately at hand in the phrase “ his pockets are well LINED.” Each separate picce of money has its own Slang term, and often half a score of synomyms. To begin with that extremely humble coin, a *farthing* : first we have FADGE, then FIDDLER, then GIG, and lastly QUARTEREEN. A *halfpenny* is a BROWN or a MADZA SALTEE, (Cant,) or a MAG, or a POSH, or a RAP,—whence the popular phrase, “I don't care a RAP.” The useful and universal *penny* has for Slang equivalents a COPPER, a SALTEE, (Cant,) and

a WINN. *Twopence* is a DEUCE, and *threepence* is either a THRUMS or a THRUPS. *Fourpence*, or a groat, may in vulgar speech be termed a BIT, a FLAG, or a JOEY. *Sixpence* is well represented in street talk, and some of the slangisms are very comical—for instance, BANDY, BENDER, CRIPPLE, and DOWNER; then we have FYE-BUCK, HALF A HOG, KICK, (thus “two and a KICK,” or 2s. 6d.,) LORD OF THE MANOR, PIG, POT, (the price of a pot of beer—thus a half-a-crown is a “five POT piece,”) SNID, SPRAT, SOW’S BABY, TANNER, TESTER, TIZZY,—sixteen vulgar words to one coin. *Sevenpence* being an uncommon amount has only one Slang synonyme, SETTER. The same remark applies to *eightpence* and *ninepence*, the former being only represented by OTTER, and the latter by the Cant phrase NOBBA-SALTEE. *Tempence* is DACHA-SALTEE, and *elevenpence* DACHA-ONE,—both Cant expressions. *One shilling* boasts eleven Slang equivalents; thus we have BEONG, BOB, BREAKY-LEG, DEANER, GEN, (either from *argent*, silver, or the back Slang,) HOG, LEVY, PEG, STAG, TEVISS, and TWELVER. *One shilling and sixpence* is a KY-BOSH. *Half-a-crown* is known as an ALDERMAN, HALF A BULL, HALF A TUSHEROON, and a MADZA CAROON; whilst a *crown* piece, or *five shillings*, may be called either a BULL, or a CAROON, or a CARTWHEEL, or a COACHWHEEL, or a THICK-UN, or a TUSHEROON. The next advance in Slang money is *ten shillings*, or *half-a-sovereign*, which may be either pronounced as HALF A BEAN, HALF A COUTER, a MADZA POONA, or HALF A QUID. A *sovereign*, or *twenty shillings*, is a BEAN, CANARY, COUTER, FOONT, GOLDFINCH, JAMES, POONA, PORTRAIT, QUID, a THICK-UN, or a YELLOW-BOY. *Guineas* are nearly obsolete, yet the terms NEDS, and HALF NEDS, are still in use. Bank-notes are FLIMSIES, LONG-TAILED ONES, or SOFT. A FINUF is a five-pound note. One hundred pounds, (or any other “round sum,”) quietly handed over as payment for services performed, is curiously termed “a cool hundred.” Thus ends, with several omissions, this long list of Slang terms for the coins of the realm,

which for copiousness, I will engage to say, is not equalled by any other vulgar or unauthorised language in Europe.

The antiquity of many of these Slang names is remarkable. WINN was the vulgar term for a penny in the days of Queen Elizabeth ; and TESTER, a sixpence, (formerly a shilling,) was the correct name in the days of Henry VIII. The reader, too, will have remarked the frequency of animals' names as Slang terms for money. Little, as a modern writer has remarked, do the persons using these phrases know of their remote and somewhat classical origin, which may, indeed, be traced to the period antecedent to that when monarchs monopolised the surface of coined money with their own image and superscriptions. They are identical with the very name of money among the early Romans, which was *pecunia*, from *pecus*, a flock. The collections of coin-dealers amply shew that the figure of a HOG was anciently placed on a small silver coin ; and that that of a BULL decorated larger ones of the same metal. These coins were frequently deeply crossed on the reverse ; this was for the convenience of easily breaking them into two or more pieces, should the bargain for which they were employed require it, and the parties making it had no smaller change handy to complete the transaction. Thus we find that the HALF BULL of the itinerant street-seller, or "traveller,"* so far from being a phrase of modern invention, as is generally supposed, is in point of fact referable to an era extremely remote. We may learn from Erizzo, in his *Discorso*, a further illustration of the proverb "that there is nothing new under the sun ;" for he says that the Roman boys at the time of Hadrian tossed up their coppers and cried, "Head or ship ;" of which tradition our "*heads or tails*" and "*man or woman*" is certainly a less-refined version. We thence gather, however, that the prow of a vessel would appear to have been the more ordinary device of the reverse of the brass coin of that ancient period.

* See Dictionary.

There are many other Cant words directly from a classic source, as will be seen in the Dictionary.

Shopkeepers' Slang is perhaps the most offensive of all Slang. It is not a casual eyesore, as newspaper Slang, neither is it an occasional discomfort to the ear, as in the case of some vulgar byword of the street; but it is a perpetual nuisance, and stares you in the face on tradesmen's invoices, on labels in the shop-windows, and placards on the hoardings, in posters against the house next to your own door—if it happens to be empty for a few weeks—and in bills thrust into your hand, as you peaceably walk through the streets. Under your door, and down your area, Slang hand-bills are dropped by some PUSHING tradesman; and for the thousandth time you are called upon to learn that an ALARMING SACRIFICE is taking place in the next street; that prices are DOWN AGAIN; that, in consequence of some other tradesman not DRIVING a ROARING TRADE, being, in fact, SOLD UP, and for the time being a resident in BURDON'S HOTEL, (Whitecross-Street Prison,) the PUSHING tradesman wishes to sell out at AWFULLY LOW PRICES, "to the kind patrons, and numerous customers," &c. &c., "that have on every occasion," &c. &c. In this Slang any occupation or calling is termed a LINE,—thus, the "building LINE." A tailor usurps to himself a good deal of Slang. Amongst operatives he is called a SNIP, or a STEEL-BAR DRIVER; by the world, a NINTH PART OF A MAN; and by the young collegian, or "fast" man, a SUFFERER. If he takes army contracts, it is SANK WORK; if he is a SLOP tailor, he is a SPRINGER UP, and his garments are BLOWN TOGETHER. Perquisites with him are SPIFFS, and remnants of cloth PEAKING, or CABBAGE. The per-cent-age he allows to his assistants (or COUNTER JUMPERS) on the sale of old-fashioned articles is termed TINGE. If he pays his workmen in goods, or gives them tickets upon other tradesmen, with whom he shares the profit, he is soon known as a TOMMY MASTER. If his business succeeds, it TAKES;

if neglected, it becomes **SHAKY**, and **GOES TO POT**; if he is deceived by a creditor, (a not by any means unusual circumstance,) he is **LET IN**, or, as it is sometimes varied, **TAKEN IN**. I need scarcely remark that any credit he may give is termed **TICK**.

Operatives' or Workmen's Slang, in quality, is but slightly removed from tradesmen's Slang. When belonging to the same shop or factory, they **GRAFT** there, and are **BROTHER CHIPS**. They generally dine at **SLAP-BANG SHOPS**, and are often paid at **TOMMY SHOPS**. At the nearest **PUB**, or public-house, they generally have a **SCORE CHALKED UP** against them, which has to be **WIPED OFF** regularly on the Saturday night. When out of work, they borrow a word from the flunkey vocabulary, and describe themselves as being **OUT OF COLLAR**. They term each other **FLINTS** and **DUNGS**, if they are "society" or "non-society" men. Their salary is a **SCREW**, and to be discharged is to **GET THE SACK**. When they quit work, they **KNOCK OFF**; and when out of employ, they ask if any **HANDS** are wanted. **FAT** is the vulgar synonyme for perquisites; **ELBOW-GREASE** signifies labour; and **SAINT MONDAY** is the favourite day of the week. Names of animals figure plentifully in the workman's vocabulary; thus we have **GOOSE**, a tailor's smoothing-iron; **SHEEP'S-FOOT**, an iron hammer; **sow**, a receptacle for molten iron, whilst the metal poured from it is termed **PIG**. I have often thought that many of the Slang terms for money originally came from the workshop, thus—**BRADS**, from the ironmounger; **CHIPS**, from the carpenter; **DUST**, from the goldsmith; **FEATHERS**, from the upholsterer; **HORSE-NAILS**, from the farrier; **HADDOCK**, from the fishmonger; and **TANNER**, from the leather-dresser. The subject is curious. Allow me to call the attention of numismatists to it.

There yet remain several distinct divisions of Slang to be examined:—the Slang of the *stable*, or *jockey* Slang; the Slang of the *prize ring*; the Slang of *servitude*, or *flunkeydom*; *vulgar*, or *street* Slang; the Slang of *softened oaths*; and the

Slang of *intoxication*. I shall only examine the last two. If society, as has been remarked, is a sham, from the vulgar foundation of commonalty to the crowning summit of royalty, especially do we perceive the justness of the remark in the Slang makeshifts for oaths, and sham exclamations for passion and temper. These apologies for feeling are a disgrace to our vernacular, although it is some satisfaction to know that they serve the purpose of reducing the stock of national profanity. "YOU BE BLOWED," or "I'LL BE BLOWED IF," &c., is an exclamation often heard in the streets. BLAZFS, or "like BLAZES," came probably from the army. BLAST, too, although in general vulgar use, may have had a like origin; so may the phrase, "I wish I may be SHOT, if," &c. BLOW ME TIGHT, is a very windy and common exclamation. The same may be said of STRIKE ME LUCKY, NEVER TRUST ME, and SO HELP ME DAVY; the latter derived from the truer old phrase, I'LL TAKE MY DAVY ON'T—*i.e.*, my *affidavit*, DAVY being a corruption of that word. BY GOLLY, GOL DARN IT, and SO HELP ME DOB, are evident shams for profane oaths. NATION is but a softening of *damnation*; and OD, whether used in OD DRAT IT, or OD'S BLOOD, is but an apology for the name of the Deity. MARRY, a term of asseveration in common use, was originally, in Popish times, a mode of swearing by the *Virgin Mary*; q. d., *by Mary*.—So also MARROW-BONES, for the knees. I'll bring him down upon his *marrow-bones*—*i.e.*, I'll make him bend his knees as he does to the *Virgin Mary*. The Irish phrase, BAD SCRAN TO YER! is equivalent to wishing a person bad food. "I'm SNIGGERED if you will," and "I'm JIGGERED," are other stupid forms of mild swearing,—fearful of committing an open profanity, yet slyly nibbling at the sin. Both DEUCE and DICKENS are vulgar old synonymes for the devil; and ZOUNDS is an abbreviation of GOD'S WOUNDS,—a very ancient Catholic oath.

In a casual survey of the territory of Slang, it is curious to

observe how well represented are the familiar wants and failings of life. First, there is money, with one hundred and twenty Slang terms and synomyes ; then comes drink, from small beer to champaigne ; and next, as a very natural sequence, *intoxication*, and fuddlement generally, with some half a hundred vulgar terms, graduating the scale of drunkenness from a slight inebriation, to the soaky state of gutterdom and stretcherdom,—I pray the reader to forgive the expressions. The Slang synomyes for mild intoxication are certainly very choice,—they are BEERY, DEMUSED, BOOZY, BOSKY, BUFFY, CORNED, FOGGY, FOUL, FRESH, HAZY, ELEVATED, KISKY, LUSHY, MOONY, MUGGY, MUZZY, ON, SCREWED, STEWED, TIGHT, and WINEY. A higher or more intense state of beastliness is represented by the expressions, PODGY, BEARGERED, BLUED, CUT, PRIMED, LUMPY, PLOUGHED, MUDDLED, OBFUSCATED, SWIPEY, THREE SHEETS IN THE WIND, and TOP-HEAVY. But the climax of fuddlement is only obtained when the DISGUISED individual CAN'T SEE A HOLE IN A LADDER, or when he is all MOPS AND BROOMS, or OFF HIS NUT, or with his MAIN-BRACE WELL SPLICED, or with the SUN IN HIS EYES, or when he has LAPPED THE GUTTER, and got the GRAVEL RASH, or on the RAN-TAN, or on the RE-RAW, or when he is SEWED UP, or regularly SCAMMERED,—then, and not till then, is he entitled, in vulgar society, to the title of LUSHINGTON, or recommended to PUT IN THE PIN.

SLANG DERIVATIONS.

Slung derivations are generally indirect, turning upon metaphor and fanciful allusions, and other than direct etymological connexion. Such allusions and fancies are essentially temporary or local; they rapidly pass out of the public mind: the word remains, while the key to its origin is lost.

A DICTIONARY
OF
MODERN SLANG, CANT, AND VULGAR
WORDS;
MANY WITH THEIR ETYMOLOGIES TRACED.

A 1, first-rate, the very best; "she's a punne girl, she is; she is A 1."—*Sam Slick*. The highest classification of ships at Lloyd's; common term in the United States; also at Liverpool and other English seaports. Another, even more intensive, form is, "first class, letter A. No. 1."

ABIGAIL, a lady's-maid; derived from old comedies.

ABOUT RIGHT, "to do the thing ABOUT RIGHT," i.e., to do it properly, soundly, correctly; "he guv it 'im ABOUT RIGHT," i.e., he beat him severely.

ABRAM-MAN, a vagabond, such as were driven to beg about the country after the dissolution of the monasteries.—See BESS O' BEDLAM, *infra*. They are well described under the title of *Bedlam Beggars*.—Shakespeare's *K. Lear* ii. 3.

"And these, what name or title e'er they bear,
Jerkinian, or Patrico, Cranke, or Clasper-dudgeon,
Frater, or ASR 'M-MAN; I speak to all
That stand in fair election for the title
Of king of beggars."—*Bouamont and Fletcher's Begg. Bush* ii. x.

It appears to have been the practice in former days to allow certain inmates of Bethlehem Hospital to have fixed days "to go begging;" hence impostors were said to "SHAM ABRAHAM" (the Abraham Ward in Bedlam having for its inmates these mendicant lunatics) when they pretended they were licensed beggars in behalf of the hospital.—See review of 2d edition of this work in *The Bookseller*, May 26, 1860.

ABANDANNAD, "an ABANDANNAD (abandoned) boy," is one who picks pockets of bandanna handkerchiefs.—*Westminster*.

ABRAM-SHAM, or SHAM ABRAHAM, to feign sickness or distress. From ABRAM-MAN, the *ancient Cant* term for a begging impostor, or one who pretended to have been mad.—*Burton's Anatomy of Melancholy*, vol. i. p. 360. When Abraham Newland was Cashier of the Bank of England, and signed their notes, it was sung :-

“ I have heard people say
That SHAM ABRAHAM you may,
But you mustn’t SHAM ABRAHAM Newland.”

ABSQUATULATE, to run away, or abscond; a hybrid *American* expression, from the Latin *ab*, and “ squat,” to settle.

ACRES, a coward.

ADAM'S ALE, water.—*English*. The *Scotch* term is ADAM'S WINE.

“ ADMIRAL OF THE RED,” a person whose very red face evinces a fondness for strong potations.

AFFYGRAPHY. “ It fits to an AFFYGRAPHY,” *i.e.*, to a nicety—to a T.

AFTERNOON FARMER, one who wastes his best opportunity, and drives off the large end of his work to the little end of his time.

AGGERAWATOR, (corruption of *Aggravator*,) the greasy lock of hair in vogue among costermongers and other street folk, worn twisted from the temple back towards the ear. They are also, from a supposed resemblance in form, termed NEWGATE KNOCKERS, which see.—*Sala's Gaslight*, &c.

AKEYBO, a slang phrase used in the following manner:—“ He beats AKEYBO, and AKEYBO beat the devil.”

ALBERTOPOLIS, a facetious appellation given by the Londoners to the Kensington Gore district.

ALDERMAN, a half crown—possibly from its rotundity.

ALDERMAN, a turkey; “ ALDERMAN IN CHAINS,” a turkey hung with sausages.

ALL, equal, a term used in various games; thus, if both parties have scored six points each, the marker cries, “ Six ALL!”

“ ALL OF A HUGH ! ” all on one side; falling with a thump; the word HUGH being pronounced with a grunt.—*Suffolk*.

“ ALL MY EYE,” answer of astonishment to an improbable story; “ ALL MY EYE AND BETTY MARTIN,” a vulgar phrase with similar meaning, said to be the commencement of a Popish prayer to St Martin, “ Oh, mihi, beate Martine,” and fallen into discredit at the Reformation.

ALL OUT, “by far;”—“ he was ALL OUT the best of the lot.” *Old*—frequently used by *Burton* in his *Anatomy of Melancholy*.

ALL-OVERISH, neither sick nor well, the premonitory symptoms of illness.

ALL-ROUNDER, the fashionable shirt collar of the present time worn meeting in front.

ALL SERENE, an ejaculation of acquiescence.—See SERENE.

ALLS, tap-droppings, refuse spirits sold at a cheap rate in gin-palaces.—See LOVEAGE.

ALL THERE, in strict fashion, first-rate, "up to the mark;" a vulgar person would speak of a spruce, showily-dressed female as being ALL THERE. An artisan would use the same phrase to express the capabilities of a skilful fellow-workman. Sometimes ALL THE WAY THERE. A modern song has—

" Says little Tom Sayers, 'If the blues do not stay us,
I'll lead him a dance for the Island,
He shall see how we fight here in my land !
We're ALL THE WAY THERE in the Island.
Although he's so tall, he
Shall yet feel my mawley
Ere I give up the 'Belt' o' the Island'"

"ALL TO PIECES," utterly, excessively; "he beat him ALL TO PIECES," i.e., excelled or surpassed him exceedingly.

"ALL TO SMASH," or "GONE TO PIECES," bankrupt, or smashed to pieces.—*Somersetshire*.

ALMIGHTY DOLLAR, an *American* expression for the "power of money," first introduced by Washington Irving in 1837.*

AMINADAB, a quaker, from old comedies.

ANDREW MILLAR, a ship of war.—*Scu.*

AN'T, or AIN'T, the vulgar abbreviation of "am not," or "are not."

ANOINTED, used in a bad sense, to express eminent rascality in any one; "an ANOINTED scoundrel," as if he were the king of scoundrels.—*Irish.*

ANOINTING, a good beating.

ANONYMA, a lady of the *demi-monde*—or worse—a pretty horse-breaker.—*Times.* INCOGNITA was the term at first.

ANY HOW, in any way, or at any rate, bad; "he went on ANY HOW," i.e., badly or indifferently.

ANTISCRIPURAL, oaths, foul language.

"APARTMENTS TO LET," said of one who has a somewhat empty head.

APOSTLE'S GROVE, the London district known as St John's Wood.

APOSTLES, THE TWELVE, the last twelve names on the Poll, or "Ordinary Degree" List at the Cambridge Examinations, when it was arranged in order of merit, and not alphabetically, and in classes, as at present; so called from there being *post alies*, after the others.†—See POLL.

* The idea of this phrase, at any rate, is far older than the time of *Irving*. *Ben Jonson's Epistle to Elizabeth, Countess of Rutland*, commences thus:—

" Whilst that for which all virtue now is sold,
And almost every vice, almighty gold."

† The last of all was called ST PAUL, (or Saint Poll,) as being the least of the apostles, and "not meet to be called an apostle," (see 1 Cor. xv. 9.) As in the "Honour" list, (see Gulf,) students who had failed only slightly in one or more subjects were occasionally allowed their degrees, and these were termed ELEGANT EXTRACTS.—*Camb. Univ. Slang.*

APPLE-PIE BED, a trick played at schools on new comers, or on any boy disliked by the rest. One of the sheets is removed, and the other is doubled in the middle, so that both edges are brought to the top, and look as if both sheets were there; but the unhappy occupant is prevented getting more than half way down, and his night's rest is in all probability spoiled.

APPLE-CART, "down with his **APPLE-CART**," i.e., upset him.—*North.*

APPLE-PIE ORDER, in exact or very nice order.

ARTICLE, derisive term for a weak specimen of humanity.

ARY, corruption of "ever a," "e'er a;" **ARY ONE**, i.e., e'er a one.

"**AS YOU WERE**," a military phrase in drilling; used in a Slang sense to one who is going on too fast in his assertions, and wants recalling to moderation.

ATOMY, a diminutive or deformed person. From **ANATOMY**.

ATTACK, to carve, or commence operations on; "**ATTACK** that beef, and oblige!"

ATTIC, the head; "queer in the **ATTIC**," intoxicated.—*Pugilistic.*

AUNT SALLY, a favourite game on race-courses and at fairs, consisting of a wooden head mounted on a stick, firmly fixed in the ground; in the nose of which, or rather in that part of the facial arrangement of **AUNT SALLY** which is generally considered incomplete without a nasal projection, a tobacco pipe is inserted. The fun consists in standing at a distance and demolishing **AUNT SALLY**'s pipe-clay projection with short bludgeons, very similar to the half of a broom handle. The Duke of Beaufort is a "crack hand" at smashing pipe noses; and his performances a few years ago on Brighton race-course are yet fresh in remembrance. Aunt Sally proprietors are indebted to the noble duke for having brought the game into fashionable notoriety.

AVAST, a sailor's phrase for stop, shut up, go away,—apparently connected with the *old Cant*, BYNGE A WASTE; or from the *Italian*, BASTA, hold! enough.

AWAKE, or **FLY**, knowing, thoroughly understanding, not ignorant of. The phrase **WIDE AWAKE** carries the same meaning in ordinary conversation.

AWFUL, (or, with the Cockneys, ORFUL,) a senseless expletive, used to intensify a description of anything good or bad; "what an **AWFUL** fine woman!" i.e., how handsome, or showy!

AREA-SNEAK, a boy thief who commits depredations upon kitchens and cellars.—*See CROW.*

ARGOT, a term used amongst London thieves for their secret or *Cant* language. *French* term for Slang.

AUTUMN, a Slang term for an execution by hanging. When the drop was introduced instead of the old gallows, cart, and ladder, and a man was for the first time "turned-off" in the present fashion, the mob were so pleased with the invention that they spoke of the operation as at **AUTUMN**, or the **FALL OF THE LEAF**, (*sc.*, the drop,) with the man about to be hanged.

AXE, to ask.—*Saxon, ACSIAN.*

AYAH, a lady's-maid or nurse.—*Anglo-Indian.*

BABES, the lowest order of KNOCK-OUTS, (which *see,*) who are prevailed upon not to give opposing biddings at auctions, in consideration of their receiving a small sum, (from one shilling to half-a-crown,) and a certain quantity of beer. BABES exist in Baltimore, U.S., where they are known as blackguards and "rowdies."

BACK, to support, or "lay" money on a particular horse in a race. The term is very generally used in the "ring," as well as on the "turf."

BACK OUT, to retreat from a difficulty; the reverse of GO AHEAD. Metaphor borrowed from the stables.

"BACK SLANG IT," to go out the back way.

BACK-HANDER, a blow on the face with the back of the hand, a back-handed tip. Also a drink out of turn, as when a greedy person delays the decanter to get a second glass.

BACKER, one who bets, or "lays" his money, on a favourite horse; a one-sided supporter in a contest. *Sporting*, and very general.

BACON, "to save one's BACON," to escape.

BAD, "to go to the BAD," to deteriorate in character, be ruined. *Virgil* has an exactly similar phrase, *in pejus ruere*.

BADMINTON, blood,—properly a peculiar kind of claret-cup invented at the Duke of Beaufort's seat of that name. BADMINTON proper is made of claret, sugar, spice, and cucumber peel iced, and is used by the Prize Ring as a synonyme for *blood* out of compliment to a well-known patron.

BAFFATY, calico. Used in the drapery trade.

BAGMAN, a commercial traveller.

BAGS, trousers. Trousers of an extensive pattern, or exaggerated fashionable cut, have lately been termed HOWLING-BAGS, but only when the style has been very "*loud*." The word is probably an abbreviation for b-mbags. "To have the BAGS off," to be of age and one's own master, to have plenty of money. "BAGS OF MYSTERY" is another phrase in frequent use.

BAKE, "he's only HALF BAKED," i.e., soft, inexperienced.

BAKER'S DOZEN. This consists of thirteen or fourteen; the surplus number, called the *inbread*, being thrown in for fear of incurring the penalty for short weight. To "give a man a BAKER'S DOZEN," in a Slang sense, means to give him an extra good beating or pummelling.

BALAAM, printers' Slang for matter kept in type about monstrous productions of nature, &c., to fill up spaces in newspapers that would otherwise be vacant. The term BALAAAM-BOX has long been used in *Blackwood* as the name of the depository for rejected articles. Evidently from Numbers xxii. 30, and denoting the "speech of an ass," or any story difficult of deglutition, not contained in Scripture.

BACK JUMP, a back window.—*Prison term.*

BALD-FACED STAG, a term of derision applied to a person with a bald head. Also, still more coarsely, "BLADDER-OF-LARD." Another name is "Marquis of Granby," which see.

BALE UP! the Australian bushrangers' "Stand and deliver!" now imported into the streets of London as a synonyme for "Stop!"

BALLAMBANGJANG. The Straits of BALLAMBANGJANG, though unnoticed by geographers, are frequently mentioned in sailors' yarns as being so narrow, and the rocks on each side so crowded with trees inhabited by monkeys, that the ship's yards cannot be squared, on account of the monkeys' tails getting jammed into, and choking up, the brace blocks.—*Sea.*

BALMY, insane.

BALMY, sleep; "have a dose of the BALMY"—go to sleep.

BAMBOOING, a beating—from the instrument employed.

BAMBOOZLE, to deceive, make fun of, or cheat a person; abbreviated to **BAM**, which is used also as a substantive—a deception, a sham, a "sell." *Swift* says **BAMBOOZLE** was invented by a nobleman in the reign of Charles II.; but this I conceive to be an error. The probability is that a nobleman first *used* it in polite society. The term is derived from the *Gipsies*.

BANDED, hungry.

BANDY, or **CRIPPLE**, a sixpence, so called from this coin being generally bent or crooked; old term for flimsy or bad cloth, temp. Q. Elizabeth.

BANG, to excel or surpass; **BANDING**, great or thumping.

BANG-UP, first-rate.

BANK, to put in a place of safety. "BANK the rag," i.e., secure the note.

BANTLING, a child; stated in *Bacchus and Venus*, 1737, and by *Grose*, to be a Cant term.

BANYAN-DAY, a day on which no meat is served out for rations; probably derived from the **BANIANS**, a Hindoo caste, who abstain from animal food.—*Sea.*

BAR, or **BARRING**, excepting; in common use in the betting-ring; "I bet against the field BAR two." The Irish use of **BARRIN'** is very similar.

BARBER'S CAT, said of a half-starved, sickly-looking person, in connexion with an expression too coarse to print.

BARKER, a man employed to cry at the doors of "gaffs," shows, and puffing shops, to entice people inside.

BARNACLES, a pair of spectacles; corruption of **BINOCULL**. Derived by some from the **barnacle**,* a kind of conical shell adhering to ships' bottoms. Hence a marine term for goggles, which they resemble in shape, and for which they are used by sailors in case of ophthalmic derangement.

* *Lepas Anatifera*.

BALL, prison allowance, viz., six ounces of meat.

BARKING-IRON, a pistol. Term used by footpads.

BARNEY, a LARK, SPREE, rough enjoyment; "get up a BARNEY," to have a "lark." Also, a deception, a "CROSS."

BARNEY, a mob, a crowd.

BARN-STORMERS, theatrical performers who travel the country and act in barns, selecting short and frantic pieces to suit the rustic taste.—*Theatrical.*

BARRIKIN, jargon, speech, or discourse; "we can't tumble to that BARRIKIN," *i.e.*, we don't understand what he says. *Miege* calls it "a sort of stuff;" *Old French*, **BARACAN**.

BASH, to beat, thrash; "BASHING a donna," beating a woman; originally a provincial word, and chiefly applied to the practice of beating walnut trees, when in bud, with long poles, to increase their productiveness. Hence the West country proverb—

"A woman, a whelp, and a walnut tree,
The more you BASH 'em, the better they be."

BASTE, to beat, properly to pour gravy on roasting meat to keep it from burning. Also, a sewing term.

BASTILE, the workhouse. General name for "the Union" amongst the lower orders of the *North*. Formerly used to denote a prison, or "lock-up;" but its abbreviated form, **STELL**, is now the favourite expression with the lower orders.

BAT, "on his own BAT," on his own account.—*See HOOK.*

BATS, a pair of bad boots.

BATTER, wear and tear; "can't stand the BATTER," *i.e.*, not equal to the task; "on the BATTER," literally "on the streets," or given up to roistering and debauchery.

BATTLES, the students' term at Oxford for rations. At Cambridge, COMMONS. *Qy.* **BATTELLS**.

BATTY, wages, perquisites. Derived from **BATTA**, an extra pay given to soldiers while serving in *India*.

BATTY-FANG, to beat; **BATTY-FANGING**, a beating; also **BATTER-FANG**. Used metaphorically as early as 1630.

"So batter fanged and belabour'd with tongue mettle, that he was weary of his life."—*Taylor's Works*, 1620.

BAZAAR, a shop or counter. *Gipsy* and *Hindoo*, a market.

BEACH-COMBER, a fellow who prowls about the sea-shore to plunder wrecks, and pick up waifs and strays of any kind.—*Sea.*

BEAK, a magistrate, judge, or policeman; "to baffle the BEAK," to get remanded. *Ancient Cant*, **BECK**. *Saxon*, **BEAG**, a necklace or gold collar—emblem of authority. Sir John Fielding was called the **BLIND-BEAK** in the last century. *Query*, if connected with the Italian **BECCO**, which means a (bird's) *beak*, and also a *blockhead*? *See*, however, under **WALKER**! for another derivation.

BEAKER-HUNTER, a stealer of poultry.

BEANS, money; "a haddock of BEANS," a purse of money; formerly, BEAN meant a guinea; *French*, BIENS, property; also used as a synonyme for BRICK, which see.

BEAR, one who contracts to deliver or sell a certain quantity of stock in the public funds on a forthcoming day at a stated place, but who does not possess it, trusting to a decline in public securities to enable him to fulfil the agreement and realise a profit.—See BULL. Both words are Slang terms on the Stock Exchange, and are frequently used in the business columns of newspapers.

"He who sells that of which he is not possessed is proverbially said to sell the skin before he has caught the BEAR. It was the practice of stock-jobbers, in the year 1720, to enter into a contract for transferring South Sea stock at a future time for a certain pice; but he who contracted to sell had frequently no stock to transfer, nor did he who bought intend to receive any in consequence of his bargain, the seller was, therefore, called a BEAR, in allusion to the proverb, and the buyer a BULL, perhaps only as a similar distinction. The contract was merely a wager, to be determined by the rise or fall of stock; if it rose, the seller paid the difference to the buyer, proportioned to the sum determined by the same computation to the seller"—
Dr Walton on Pope.

BEARGERED, to be drunk.

BEAT, the allotted range traversed by a policeman on duty.

BEAT, or BEAT-HOLLOW, to surpass or excel; also "BEAT into fits."

BEAT, "DEAD-BEAT," wholly worn out, done for.

BEATER-CASES, boots. *Nearly obsolete.*

BEAVER, old street term for a hat; GOSS is the modern word, BEAVER, except in the country, having fallen into disuse.

BE-BLOWED, a windy exclamation equivalent to an oath.—See BLOW-ME.

BED-POST, "in the twinkling of a BED-POST," in a moment, or very quickly.

Originally BED-STAFF, a stick placed vertically in the frame of a bed to keep the bedding in its place.—*Shadwell's Virtuoso*, 1676, act i., scene I. This was used sometimes as a defensive weapon.

BED-FAGOT, a contemptuous term for a bed-fellow.—See FAGOT.

BEDFORDSHIRE, bed; when a person says, "I'm off for BEDFORDSHIRE," he means that he is going to bed.

BEE, "to have a BEE in one's bonnet," i.e., to be not exactly sane.

BEEBEE, a lady.—*Anglo-Indian.*

BEEF-HEADED, stupid.

BEEFY, unduly thick or fat, commonly said of women's ankles.—See MULLINGAR.

BEERY, intoxicated, or fuddled with beer.

BEESWAX, poor soft cheese.

BEETLE-CRUSHER, or SQUASHER, a large flat foot. The expression was first used in one of Mr Leech's caricatures in *Punch*.

BEGGAR'S VELVET, downy particles which accumulate under furniture from the negligence of house-maids. Otherwise called SLUT'S-WOOL.

BELCHER, a handkerchief.—See under BILLY for description.

BELL, a song. Tramps' term.

BELLOWS, the lungs. BELLOWSER, a blow in the "wind," or pit of the stomach; taking one's breath away.

"BELLOWS TO MEND," said of a person out of breath.

BELLY-TIMBER, food, or "grub."

BELLY-VENGEANCE, small sour beer, apt to cause gastralgia.

BEMUSE, to fuddle one's-self with drink, "BEMUSING himself with beer," &c.—*Sala's Gaslight and Daylight*, p. 308.

BEN, a benefit.—*Theatrical*.

BEND, "that's above my BEND," i.e., beyond my power, too expensive, or too difficult for me to perform.

BENDER, a sixpence,—from its liability to bend.

BENDER, the arm; "over the BENDER," synonymous with "over the left."—See OVER. Also an ironical explanation similar to WALKER!

BENDIGO, a rough fur cap worn in the midland counties, named after a noted pugilist of that name.

BENE, good.—*Ancient Cant*; DENAR was the comparative.—See BONE. *Latin*.

BENEDICT, a married man.

BENJAMIN, a coat. Formerly termed a JOSEPH, in allusion, perhaps, to Joseph's coat of many colours.—See UPPER-BENJAMIN.

BEN JOLTRAM, brown bread and skimmed milk; a Norfolk term for a ploughboy's breakfast.

BENJY, a waistcoat,—the diminutive of BENJAMIN.

BEONG, a shilling.—See SALTEE.—*Lingua Franca*.

BESS.—See BROWN-BESS.

BESS-O'-BEDLAM, a lunatic vagrant.—*Norfolk*.

BEST, to get the better or "best" of a man in any way—not necessarily to cheat—to have the best of a bargain. BESTED, taken in, or defrauded. BESTER, a low betting cheat.

BETTER, more; "how far is it to town?" "Oh, BETTER 'n a mile."—*Saxon and Old English*, now a vulgarism.

BETTING ROUND. See BOOK, and BOOK-MAKING.

B. FLATS, bugs.—Compare F. SHARPS.

BIBLE-CARRIER, a person who sells songs without singing them.—*Seven Dials*.

BIG, "to look BIG," to assume an inflated address, or manner; "to talk BIG," i.e., boastingly, or with an "extensive" air.

"BIG-BIRD, TO GET THE," i.e., to be hissed, as actors occasionally are by the "gods."—*Theat. Slang*.

BELLOWSED, or LAGGED, transported.

BEN CULL, a friend, or "pal."—*Millbank Penitentiary*.

BETTY, a skeleton key, or picklock.—*Old Prison Cant*.

BIG-HOUSE, the work-house,—a phrase used by the very poor.

BIG-WIG, a person in authority or office.

BILBO, a sword; abbrev. of “**BILBOA** blade.” Spanish swords were anciently very celebrated, especially those of Toledo, Bilboa, &c.

BILK, a cheat, or a swindler. Formerly in general use, now confined to the streets, where it is very common. *Gothic*, **BILAICAN**.

BILK, to defraud, or obtain goods, &c., without paying for them; “to **BILK** the schoolmaster,” to get information or experience without paying for it.

BILLINGSGATE, (when applied to speech,) foul and coarse language. Not many years since, one of the London notorieties was to hear the fishwomen at Billingsgate abuse each other. The anecdote of Dr Johnson and the Billingsgate virago is well known.

BILLY, a silk pocket-handkerchief.—*Scotch*.—See **WIPE**.

* * * A list of the Slang terms descriptive of the various patterns of handkerchiefs, pocket and neck, is here subjoined:—

BELCHER, darkish blue ground, large round white spots, with a spot in the centre of darker blue than the ground. This was adopted by Jim Belcher, the pugilist, and soon became popular amongst “the fancy.”

BIRD'S-EYE WIPE, same as preceding.

BLOOD-RED FANCY, red.

BLUE BILLY, blue ground with white spots.

CREAM FANCY, any pattern on a white ground.

GREEN KING'S MAN, any pattern on a green ground.

RANDAL'S MAN, green, with white spots; named after Jack Randal, pugilist.

WATER'S MAN, sky coloured.

YELLOW FANCY, yellow, with white spots.

YELLOW MAN, all yellow.

BILLY-BARLOW, a street clown; sometimes termed a **JIM CROW**, or **SALTIMBANCO**,—so called from the hero of a Slang song.—*Bulwer's Paul Clifford*.—Billy was a real person, semi-idiotic, and, though in dirt and rags, fancied himself a swell of the first water. Occasionally he came out with real witticisms. He was a well-known street character about the east end of London, and died in Whitechapel Workhouse.—(P.)

BILLY-COCK, a hat of the Jim Crow or “wide-awake” description, principally worn by carters.

BINGY, a term largely used in the butter trade to denote bad ropy butter; nearly equivalent to **VINNIED**.

BINGO, brandy.—*Bulwer's Paul Clifford*.

BIRD-CAGE, a four-wheeled cab.

BILLY, a policeman's staff.

BILLY, stolen metal of any kind.

BILLY-HUNTING, buying old metal.—See **BILLY-FENCER**.

BILLY-FENCER, a marine-store dealer.

BIT, fourpence; in America 12½ cents are called a **BIT**, and a defaced 2 cent piece is termed a **LONG BIT**. A **BIT** is the smallest coin in Jamaica equal to 6d.

BIT, money. Charles Bannister, the witty singer and actor, one day meeting a Bow-Street runner with a man in custody, asked what the prisoner had done; and being told that he had stolen a bridle, and had been detected in the act of selling it, said, "Ah! then, he wanted to touch the **BIT**."

BITCH, tea; "a **BITCH** party," a tea-drinking.—*Oxford*.

BITE, a cheat; "a Yorkshire **BITE**," a cheating fellow from that county—*North*; also *old Slang*—used by *Pope*. Swift says it originated with a nobleman in his day.

BITE, to cheat; "to be **BITTEN**," to be taken in or imposed upon. Originally a Gipsy term.*—See *Bacchus and Venus*.

BITTERS, "to do **BITTERS**," to drink beer.—*Oxford*.

BITTOCK, a distance of very undecided length. If a north countryman be asked the distance to a place, he will most probably reply, "a mile and a **BITTOCK**"; and the latter may be considered any distance from one hundred yards to ten miles!

B. K. S. Military officers in *mufti*, when out on a spree, and not wishing their profession to be known, speak of their barracks as the **B. K. S.**

BIVVY, or **GATTER**, beer; "shant of **BIVVY**," a pot or quart of beer. In Suffolk, the afternoon refreshment of reapers is called **BEVER**. It is also an old English term.

"He is none of those same ordinary eaters, that will devour three breakfasts, and as many dinners, without any prejudice to their **BAVERS**, drinkings, or suppers."—*Beaumont and Fletcher's Woman Hater*, i. 3.

Both words are probably from the *Italian*, **BEVERE**, **BERE**. *Latin*, **BIBERE**. *English*, **BEVERAGE**.

"**BLACK AND WHITE**," handwriting, or print.

BLACK-A-VISED, having a very dark complexion.

BLACKBIRD-CATCHING, *sea Slang* for the slave-trade.

BLACK DIAMONDS, coals; talented persons of dingy or unpolished exterior; rough jewels.

BLACK-LEG, a rascal, swindler, or card cheat. The derivation of this term was solemnly argued before the full court of Queen's Bench, upon a motion for a new trial for libel, but was not decided by the learned tribunal. Probably it is from the custom of sporting and turf men wearing black *top-boots*. Hence **BLACK-LEG** came to be the phrase for a professional sporting man.

* **CROSS-BITER**, for a cheat, continually occurs in writers of the sixteenth century. N. Bailey has **CROSS-BITE**, a disappointment, probably the primary sense; and **BITE** is very probably a contraction of this—See *Nares's Glossary*, s. v.

BIT, a purse, or any sum of money.—*Prison Cant*.

BIT-FAKER, or **TURNER OUT**, a coiner of bad money.

BLACKBERRY-SWAGGER, a person who hawks tapes, boot-laces, &c.

BLACK-SHEEP, a "bad lot," "*mauvais sujet*;" also a workman who refuses to join in a strike.

BLACK-STRAP, port wine.

BLACKGUARD, a low, or dirty fellow.

"A Cant word amongst the vulgar, by which is implied a dirty fellow of the meanest kind, Dr Johnson says, and he cites only the modern authority of Swift. But the introduction of this word into our language belongs not to the vulgar, and is more than a century prior to the time of Swift. Mr Malone agrees with me in exhibiting the two first of the following examples.—The *black-guard* is evidently designed to imply a fit attendant on the devil. Mr Gifford, however, in his late edition of Ben Jonson's works, assigns an origin of the name different from what the old examples which I have cited seem to countenance. It has been formed, he says, from those 'mean and duty dependants, in great houses, who were selected to carry coals to the kitchen, halls, &c. To this smutty regiment, who attended the progresses, and rode in the carts with the pots and kegs, which, with every other article of furniture, were then moved from palace to palace, the people, in derision, gave the name of *black guards*, a term since become sufficiently familiar, and never properly explained."—*Ben Jonson*, ii. 163, vñ. 250."—*Todd's Johnson's Dictionary*.

BLADE, a man—in ancient times the term for a soldier; "knowing BLADE," a wide-awake, sharp, or cunning man.

BLADDER-OF-LARD, a coarse, satirical nickname for a bald-headed person.

BLARNEY, flattery, exaggeration. A castle in the county of Cork. It is said that whoever kisses a certain stool in this castle will be able to persuade others of whatever he or she pleases. The name of the castle is derived from BLADH, a blossom, i.e., the flowery or fertile demesne. BLADH is also flattery, hence the connexion—Irish.

BLAST, to curse. Originally a *Military* expression.

BLAZES, a low synonyme for the infernal regions. Also as applied to the brilliant habiliments of funkeys.—*See Pickwick Papers*.

BLEST, a vow; "BLFST if I'll do it," i.e., I am determined not to do it; euphemism for CURST.

BLEED, to victimise, or extract money from a person, to sponge on, to make suffer vindictively.

BLEW, or **BLOW**, to inform, or peach.

BLEWED, got rid of, disposed of, spent; "I BLEWED all my blunt last night," I spent all my money.

BLIND, a pretence, or make-believe.

BLIND-HALF-HUNDRED, the fiftieth regiment of foot; so called through their great sufferings from ophthalmia, when serving in Egypt.

BLIND-HOOKEY, a gambling game at cards; called also WILFUL MURDER.

BLIND-MAN'S-HOLIDAY, night, darkness.

BLINKER, a blackened eye.—*Norwich Slang*. **BLINKERS**, spectacles.

BLINK-FENCER, a person who sells spectacles.

BLOAK, or BLOKE, a man; "the BLOAK with a jasey," the man with a wig, i.e., the Judge. *Gipsy and Hindoo*, LOKE. North, BLOACHER, any large animal.

BLOATER.—*See MILD.*

BLOCK, the head. "To BLOCK a hat," is to knock a man's hat down over his eyes.—*See BONNET.*

BLOCK ORNAMENTS, the small dark-coloured pieces of meat exposed on the cheap butchers' blocks or counters,—debateable points to all the sharp-visaged argumentative old women in low neighbourhoods.

BLOOD, a fast or high-mettled man. Nearly obsolete in the sense in which it was used in George the Fourth's time.

BLOOD-RED FANCY, a particular kind of handkerchief worn by pugilists and frequenters of prize fights.—*See BILLY.*

BLOODY-JEMMY, an uncooked sheep's head.—*See SANGUINARY JAMES.*

"BLOW A CLOUD," to smoke a cigar or pipe—a phrase in use two centuries ago.

BLOW ME, or BLOW ME TIGHT, a vow, a ridiculous and unmeaning ejaculation, inferring an appeal to the ejaculator; "I'm BLOWED if you will" is a common expression among the lower orders; "BLOW ME UP" was the term a century ago.—*See Parker's Adventures*. 1781.—The expression BE-BLOWLD is now more general. Tom Hood used to tell a story.—

"I was once asked to contribute to a new journal, not exactly gratuitously, but at a very small advance upon nothing—and avowedly because the work had been planned according to that estimate. However, I accepted the terms conditionally—that is to say, provided the principle could be properly carried out. Accordingly, I wrote to my butcher, baker, and other tradesmen, informing them that it was necessary, for the sake of cheap literature and the interest of the reading public, that they should furnish me with their several commodities at a very trifling per-cent above cost price. It will be sufficient to quote the answer of the butcher:—'Sir,—Respectin' your note, Cheap literatur BE BLOW'D! Butchers must live as well as other peopl—and if so be you or the readin' publick wants to have meat at prime cost, you must buy your own beastesses, and kill yourselves.—I remain, etc.,
JOHN STOKES.'

BLOW OUT, or TUCK IN, a feast.

BLOW UP, to make a noise, or scold; formerly a Cant expression used amongst thieves, now a recognised and respectable phrase. BLOWING UP, a jolabon, a scolding.

BLOE, (from BLAB,) to talk. Beggars are of two kinds,—those who SCREEVE, (introduce themselves with a FAKEMENT, or false document,) and those who BLOE, or state their case in their own truly "unvarnished" language.

BLOW, to expose, or inform; "BLOW the gaff," to inform against a person.

"As for that," says Will, "I could tell it well enough, if I had it, but I must not be seen anywhere among my old acquaintances, for I am BLOWN, and they will all betray me."—*History of Colon'l Jack*, 1723.

In America, "to BLOW" is Slang for to taunt.

BLOWER, a girl; a contemptuous name in opposition to JOMER.

BLOWEN, a showy or flaunting female. In *Wilts*, a BLOWEN is a blossom. *Germ.* BLUHEN, to bloom. In *German*, also, BURLEN is to court, and BUHLE, a sweetheart.

"O du blühende Mädchen viel schöne Willkomm!"—*German Song*.

Possibly, however, the street term BLOWEN may mean one whose reputation has been BLOWN UPON, or damaged.

BLUBBER, to cry in a childish manner.—*Ancient*. A correspondent says, "probably from hanging the lip."

BLUE, said of talk that is smutty or indecent. When the conversation has assumed an entirely opposite character, it is then said to be BROWN, or Quakerish.

BLUE, a policeman; "disguised in BLUE and liquor."—*Boots at the Swan*. "THE GENTLEMAN IN BLUE AND WHITE"—i.e., a policeman—was frequently called upon for a song at the pleasant camp-fire meetings on Wimbledon Common, during the volunteer encampment there in 1863.

BLUE, or BLEW, to pawn or pledge.

BLUE, confounded or surprised; "to look BLUE," to be astonished or disappointed.

BLUE BILLY, the handkerchief (blue ground with white spots) worn and used at prize fights. Before a "SET TO," it is common to take it from the neck and tie it round the leg as a garter, or round the waist, to "keep in the wind." Also, the refuse ammoniacal lime from gas factories.

BLUE BLANKET, a rough overcoat made of coarse pilot cloth.

BLUE-BOTTLE, a policeman. It is singular that this well-known Slang term for a London constable should have been used by *Shakspeare*. In Part ii. of *King Henry IV.*, act v., scene 4, Doll Tearsheet calls the beadle, who is dragging her in, a "thin man in a censer, a BLUE-BOTTLE rogue."

BLUED, or BLEWED, tipsy, or drunk.

BLUE DEVILS, the apparitions supposed to be seen by habitual drunkards

BLUE MOON, an unlimited period.

BLUE MURDER, a desperate or alarming cry.—*French*, MORTBLEU.

BLUE RUIN, gin.

BLUES, a fit of despondency.—See BLUE DEVILS.

BLUFF, an excuse; more frequently used as an adjective, in the sense of rough, coarse, plain-spoken.

BLUFF, to turn aside, stop, or excuse.

BLUDGER, a low thief, who does not hesitate to use violence.—*Prison Cant*.

BLUE-PIGEON-FLYER, a journeyman plumber, glazier, or other workman, who, under the plea of repairing houses, strips off the lead, and makes away with it. Sometimes they get off with it by wrapping it round their bodies.

BLUNY, lead.—*German*, BLEI.

BLUNT, money. It has been said that this term is from the French *BLOND*, sandy or golden colour, and that a parallel may be found in *BROWN* or *BROWNS*, the slang for halfpence. Far-fetched as this etymology may be, it is doubtless correct, as it is borne out by the analogy of similar expressions. Cf. *BLANQUILLO*, a word used in Morocco and Southern Spain for a small Moorish coin. The "asper" (*ἀσπρόν*) of Constantinople is called by the Turks *AKCHEH*, i.e., "little white." See also *WINN*, (Harman,) above, p. 20.

BLURT OUT, to speak from impulse, and without reflection.—*Shakspeare*.

BOARD-OF-GREEN-CLOTH, a facetious synonyme for a card-table.

BOB, a shilling. Formerly *BOBSTICK*, which may have been the original. *BOB-A-NOB*, a shilling a-head. *Query*, if connected with Sir Rob. Walpole, as *JOEY* is with Joseph Hume?

BOB, "s' help my *BOB*," a street oath, equivalent to "so help me God." Other words are used in street language for a similarly evasive purpose, i.e., *CAT*, *GREENS*, *TATAR*, &c., all equally profane and disgusting.

BOB IT, drop it, give it up.

BOBBERY, a squabble, tumult.—*Anglo Indian*.

BOBBISH, very well, clever, spruce. "How are you doing?" "Oh! pretty *BOBBISH*."—*Ola*.

BOBBY, a policeman. Both *BOBBY* and *PEELER* were nicknames given to the new police, in allusion to the Christian and surnames of the late *Sir Robert Peel*, who was the prime mover in effecting their introduction and improvement. The term *BOBBY* is, however, older than the *Saturday Reviewer* imagines. The official square-keeper, who is always armed with a cane to drive away idle and disorderly urchins, has, time out of mind, been called by the said urchins, *BOBBY the Beadle*. *BOBBY* is also, I may remark, an old English word for striking or hitting, a quality not unknown to policemen.—See *Halliwell's Dictionary*.

BODKIN, a small, or young person, sitting in the centre, between two others, in a carriage, is said "to ride bodkin." Amongst sporting men, applied to a person who takes his turn between the sheets on alternate nights, when the hotel has twice as many visitors as it can comfortably lodge.

BODY-SNATCHER, a bailiff or runner: *SNATCH*, the trick by which the bailiff captures the delinquent.

BODY-SNATCHER, a cat-stealer.

BOG-ORANGES, potatoes.

BOG, or *BOG-HOUSE*, a privy as distinguished from a water-closet.—*School term*. In the Inns of Court, I am informed, the term is very common.

BOG-TROTTER, satirical name for an Irishman.—*Miege*. *Camden*, however, speaking of the "debateable land" on the borders of England and Scotland, says, "both these dales breed notable *BOG-TROTTERS*."

BOLUS, an apothecary.

BOILERS, or *BROMPTON BOILERS*, the Slang name given to the New Kensington Museum and School of Art, in allusion to the peculiar form

of the buildings, and the fact of their being mainly composed of, and covered with, sheet iron.—*See PEPPER-BOXES.*

BOLT, to run away, decamp, or abscond.

BOLT, to swallow without chewing.

BOMBAY DUCKS; in the East India Company's army the Bombay regiments were so designated. The name is now given to a dried fish, (*bummeelow,*) much eaten by natives and Europeans in Western India.—*Anglo-Indian.*

BONE, to steal or appropriate what does not belong to you. **BONED**, seized apprehended.—*Old.*

BONE-PICKER, a footman.

BONES, TO RATTLE THE BONES, to play at dice; also called **ST HUGH'S BONES**.

BONES, “he made no BONES of it,” he did not hesitate, *i.e.*, undertook and finished the work without difficulty, “found no BONES in the jelly.”—*Ancient, vide Cotyraue.*

BONIFACE, landlord of a tavern or inn.

BONNET, a gambling cheat. “A man who sits at a gaming-table, and appears to be playing against the table, when a stranger enters, the **BONNET** generally wins.”—*Times*, Nov. 17, 1856. Also, a pretence, or make-believe, a sham bidder at auctions, one who metaphorically blinds or **BONNETS** others.—*See the following.*

BONNET, to strike a man's cap or hat over his eyes.

BONNETER, one who induces another to gamble.

BOOBY-TRAP, a favourite amusement of boys at school. It consists in placing a pitcher of water on the top of a door set ajar for the purpose; the person whom they wish to drench is then enticed to pass through the door, and receives the pitcher and its contents on his unlucky head. Books are sometimes used.

BOOK, an arrangement of bets for and against, chronicled in a pocket-book made for that purpose, “making a **BOOK** upon it,” a common phrase to denote the general arrangement of a person's bets on a race. “That does not suit my **BOOK**,” *i.e.*, does not accord with my other arrangements. The principle of **MAKING A BOOK**, or **BETTING ROUND**, as it is sometimes termed, is to lay out a previously-determined sum against every horse in the race, or as many as possible; and should the **BOOK-MAKER GET ROUND**, *i.e.*, succeed in laying against as many horses as will more than balance the odds laid, he is certain to be a winner.—*See HEDGE.*

BOOKED, caught, fixed, disposed of.—Term in *Book-keeping*.

BONE, good, excellent. ◇, the vagabond's hieroglyphic for **BONE**, or good, chalked by them on houses and street corners, as a hint to succeeding beggars. *French, BON.*

BONE-GRUBBER, a person who hunts dust-holes, gutters, and all likely spots for refuse bones, which he sells at the rag-shops, or to the bone-grinders.

BOOKS. a pack of cards. Term used by professional card-players.—See DEVIL'S BOOKS.

BOOK-HOLDER, a prompter.—*Theatrical*.

BOOM, "to top one's BOOM off," to be off, or start in a certain direction.—*Sea*.

BOOM-PASSENGER, a sailor's Slang term for a convict on board ship.—*See*.

BOOZE, drink. *Ancient Cunt, bowse.* BOOZE, or STUCK-CASA, a public house.

BOOZE, to drink, or more properly, to use another Slang term, to "lush," viz., to drink continually, until drunk, or nearly so. The term is an old one. *Harman*, in Queen Elizabeth's days, speaks of "BOUZING (or boozing) and belly-cheere." The term was good English in the fourteenth century, and came from the *Dutch*, *BOYZEN*, to tipple.

BOOZING-KEN, a beer-shop, a low public-house.—*Ancient*.

BOOZY, intoxicated or fuddled.

BORE, a troublesome friend or acquaintance, a nuisance, anything which wearis or annoys, so called from his unvaried and pertinacious pushing. The *Gradus ad Cantabriam* suggests the derivation of BORE from the Greek *Bipes*, a burden. *Shakspeare* uses it, *King Henry VIII.* i. 1—

" — al this instant
He BORES me with some trick "

Grose speaks of this word as being much in fashion about the year 1780-81, and states that it vanished of a sudden, without leaving a trace behind. Not so, burly Grose, the term is still in favour, and is as piquant and expressive as ever. Of the modern sense of the word BORE, the Prince Consort made an amusing and effective use in his masterly address to the British Association, at Aberdeen, September 14, 1859. He said, (as reported by the *Times* :)—

"I will not weary you by further examples, with which most of you are better acquainted than I am myself, but merely express my satisfaction that there should exist bodies of men who will bring the well-considered and understood wants of science before the public and the Government, who will even hand round the bengay-box, and expose themselves to refusals and rebuffs, to which all beggars are liable, with the certainty besides of being considered great bores. Please to recollect that this species of "bore" is a most useful animal, well adapted for the ends for which nature intended him. He alone, by constantly returning to the charge, and repeating the same truths and the same requests, succeeds in awakening attention to the cause which he advocates, and obtains that hearing which is granted him at last for self-protection, as the minor evil compared to his importunity, but which is requisite to make his cause understood."

BORE, (*Pugilistic*,) to press a man to the ropes of the ring by superior weight.

BOSH, nonsense, stupidity.—*Gipsy* and *Persian*. Also pure *Turkish*, BOSA LAKERDI, empty talk. A person, in the *Saturday Review*, has stated that BOSH is coeval with Morier's novel, *Hadji Babi*, which was published in 1828; but this is a blunder. The term was used in this country as early as 1760, and may be found in the *Student*, vol. ii., p. 217. A correspondent asserts that this colloquial expression is from the German BOSH, or BOSSCH, answering to our word "swipes."

BOSKY. inebriated.—*Household Words*, No. 183.

BOSS-EYED, a person with one eye, or rather with one eye injured.

BOTANY BAY, Worcester Coll. Oxon, so called from its remote situation.

BOTHER, (from the *Hibernicism POTHER*,) trouble, or annoyance. *Grose* has a singular derivation, BOTHER, or BOTH-EARED, from two persons talking at the same time, or to both ears. BLOTHER, an old word, signifying to chatter idly.—See *Halliwell*.

BOTHER, to tease, to annoy.

BOTHERATION! trouble, annoyance; “BOTHERATION to it,” “confound it,” or “deuce take it”—an exclamation when irritated.

BOTTLE-HOLDER, an assistant to a “Second,” (*Pugilistic*;) an abettor; also, the bridegroom’s man at a wedding. Slang term for Lord Palmerston, derived from a speech he made some years ago when foreign secretary, in which he described himself as acting the part of a judicious “BOTTLE-HOLDER” among the foreign powers. A lately-invented instrument to hold a bottle has thus received the name of a PALMERSTON.

BOTTOM, stamina in a horse or man. Power to stand fatigue; endurance to receive a good beating, and still fight on. “A fellow of PLUCK, sound WIND, and good BOTTOM is fit to fight anything.”

BOTTS, the colic or bellyache.—*Stable Slang*. Burns uses it. See *Death and Dr Hornbook*.

BOTTY, conceited, swaggering.—*Stable*.

BOUNCE, impudence. A showy swindler.

BOUNCE, to boast, cheat, or bully.—*Old Cant*. Also to lie.

BOUNCEABLE, prone to bouncing or boasting.

BOUNCING-BEN, a learned man.

BOUNDER, a four-wheeled cab. *Lucus a non lucendo?* Also a University term for a TRAP.

“The man who drives has a well-appointed ‘BOUNDER’ of his own, to the splashboard of which is affixed a mysterious box, containing clamps and cords, straps and buckles, with a view to breakages and other accidents.”

—*Hints to Freshman*, 1842.

BOW-CATCHER, or KISS-CURL, a small curl twisted on the cheeks or temples of young—and often old—girls, adhering to the face as if gummed or pasted. Evidently a corruption of BEAU-CATCHER. In old times this was called a *lovelock*, when it was the mark at which all the Puritan and ranting preachers levelled their pulpit pop-guns, loaded with sharp and virulent abuse. Hall and Prynne looked upon

BOSH, a fiddle. **BOSH-FAKER**, a violin-player. Terms only used by the lower orders.

BOS-KEN, a farm-house. *Ancient*.—See **KEN**.

BOSMAN, a farmer; “faking a BOSMAN on the main toby,” robbing a farmer on the highway. **Boss**, a master.—*American*. Both terms from the Dutch, **BOSCH-MAN**, one who lives in the woods; otherwise *Boschjeman*, or *Bushman*.

BOUNCER, a person who steals whilst bargaining with a tradesman; a lie.

all women as strumpets who dared to let the hair depart from a straight line upon their cheeks. The French prettily term them *accroche-couurs*, whilst in the United States they are plainly and unpleasantly called SPIT-CURLS. Bartlett says:—"SPIT-CURL, a detached lock of hair curled upon the temple; probably from having been at first plastered into shape by the saliva. It is now understood that the mucilage of quince seed is used by the ladies for this purpose."

"You may prate of your lips, and your teeth of pearl,
And your eyes so brightly flashing;
My song shall be of that SALIVA CURL
Which threatens my heart to smush in"

—*Boston Transcript*, October 30, 1858

When men twist the hair on each side of their faces into ropes they are sometimes called BELL ROPES, as being wherewith to *draw the bellies*. Whether BELL-ROPEs or BOW-CATCHERS, it is singular they should form part of the prisoner's paraphernalia, and that a janty little kiss-me-quick curl should, of all things in the world, ornament a jail dock; yet such was formerly the case. Hunt, "the accomplice after the fact and king's evidence against" the murderer of Weare, on his trial, we are informed by the *Athenaeum*, appeared at the bar with a highly pomatummed love-lock sticking tight to his forehead. Young ladies, think of this!

BOWL OUT, to put out of the game, to remove out of one's way, to detect.—*Cricketing term*.

BOWLAS, round tarts made of sugar, apple, and bread, sold in the streets.

BOWLES, shoes.

BOX-HARRY, a term with bagmen or commercial travellers, implying dinner and tea at one meal; also dining with "Duke Humphrey," i.e., going without.—*Lincolnshire*.

BOX-OF MINUTES, a watch, or watchmaker's shop.

"**BOX THE COMPASS**," to repeat the thirty-two points of the compass either in succession or irregularly. The method used at sea to learn boys the points of the mariner's compass.—*Sea*.

BRADS, money. Properly a small kind of nails used by cobblers.—*Compare HORSE NAILS*.

BRAIN-PAN, the skull.

BRAIN-CANISTER, the head.—*Pugilistic*.

BRAMBLE-GELDER, a derisive appellation for an agriculturist.—*Suffolk*.

BRACE UP, to pawn stolen goods.

BRACELETS, handcuffs.

BRAD-FAKING, playing at cards. Probably from **BROADS**.

BRAGGADOCTO, three months' imprisonment as a reputed thief or old offender,—sometimes termed a DOSE, or a DOLLOP.—*Household Words*, vol. i., p. 579.

BRANDY PAWNEE, brandy and water.—*Anglo-Indian.*

BRAN-NEW quite new. Properly, *Brent*, BRAND, or *Fire-new*, i.e., fresh from the anvil.

BRASS, money.

BRASS, impudence. In 1803 some artillery-men stationed at Norwich were directed to prove some brass ordnance belonging to the city. To the report delivered to the corporation was appended this note:—“*N.B.*—It is customary for the corporal to have the old metal when any of the pieces burst.” *Answer.*—“The corporation is of opinion that the corporal does not want BRASS.”

BRAZEN-FACED, impudent, shameless. See **BRASS**. Such a person is said “to have rubbed his face with a brass candlestick.”

BRAZIL, a hard red wood; “**HARD AS BRAZIL**,” a common expression. *Quarles* in his *Emblems* says:—

“Thou know’st my brittle temper’s prone to break.
Are my bones BRAZIL or my flesh of oak?”

BREAD-BAGS, a nickname given in the army and navy to any one connected with the victualling department, as a purser, or purveyor in the Commissariat.

BREAD-BASKET, DUMPLING-DEPOT, VICTUALLING-OFFICE, &c., are terms given by the “*Fancy*” to the digestive organ.

BREAK-DOWN, a noisy dance, and violent enough to break the floor down; a jovial, social gathering, a FLARE UP; in Ireland, a wedding—(*Q.y. American?*)

“**BREAK ONE’S BACK**,” a figurative expression, implying bankruptcy, or the crippling of a person’s means.

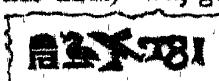
“A story is current of a fashionable author answering a late and rather violent knock at his door one evening. A coal-heaver wanted to know if the gentleman would like a cheap ton of coals; he was sorry for troubling him so late, but ‘the party as had a-ordered the two ton and a-half couldn’t be found,’ although he had driven his ‘waggon for six blessed hours up and down the neighbourhood. Five-and-twenty is the price, but yer shall have them for 20s.’ Our author was not to be tempted, he had heard of the trick before; so bidding the man go away from his house, he shut the door. The man, however, lingered there, expatiating on the quality of his coals—‘Acterly givin’ tem away, and the gent won’t have ‘em,’ said he, addressing the neighbourhood in a loud voice; and the last that was heard of him was his anything but sweet voice whistling through the key-hole, ‘Will eighteen bob **BREAK YER BACK?**’”

BREAK SHINS, to borrow money.

BREAK UP, the conclusion of a performance of any kind—originally a school term.

BREAKY-LEG, a shilling.

BREAKY-LEG, strong drink; “he’s been to Bungay fair, and BROKE BOTH HIS LEGS,” i.e., got drunk. In the ancient Egyptian language the determinative character in the hieroglyphic verb “to be drunk,” has the significant form of the leg of a man being amputated.



BREECHED, OR TO HAVE THE BAGS OFF, to have plenty of money : "to be well BREECHED," to be in good circumstances.

BREECHES, "to wear the BREECHES," said of a wife who usurps the husband's prerogative.

BREEF, probably identical with BRIEF, q. v., a plan of cheating at cards ; thus described in an old book of games of about 1720 :—

"Take a pack of cards and open them, then take out all the honours . . . and cut a little from the edges of the rest all alike, so as to make the honours broader than the rest, so that when your adversary cuts to you, you are certain of an honour. When you cut to your adversary cut at the ends, and then it is a chance if you cut him an honour, because the cards at the ends are all of a length. Thus you may make bream end-way, as well as side-ways."

BREEKS, breeches.—*Scotch*, now common.

BRICK, a "jolly good fellow;" "a regular BRICK," a staunch fellow.

"I bonneted Whewell when we gave the Ruds their gnat,
And taught them to eschew all their addresses to the Queen.
If again they try it on, why to floor them I'll make one,
Spite of Peeler or of Don, like a brick and a *Bray*."

—*The Jolly Bachelor*, Cambridge, 1840.

Said to be derived from an expression of Aristotle's—τερπαγώνος ἀνηρ. A recently current story informs us that Lillywhite, the cricketer, was originally a brickmaker, and that from him a "stumping bowl" acquired the name of a "regular BRICK."

BRIDGE, a cheating trick at cards, by which any particular card is cut by previously curving it by the pressure of the hand. Used in France as well as in England, and termed in the *Parisian Argot FAIRE LE PONT*.

BRIEF, a pawnbroker's duplicate. Derived from the following :—

BRIEFS, cards constructed on a cheating principle. See BRIDGE, CONCAVES and CONVEXES, LONGS and SHORTS, REFLECTORS, &c. From the German, BRIEFE, which Baron Heinecken says was the name given to the cards manufactured at Ulm. BRIEF is also the synonyme for a card in the German *Rothwalsch* dialect, and BRIEFEN to play at cards. "Item—beware of the Joners, (gamblers,) who practise Beseflery with the BRIEF, (cheating at cards,) who deal falsely and cut one for the other, cheat with Boglein and spies, pick one BRIEF from the ground, and another from a cupboard," &c.—*Liber Vagatorum*, ed. by Martin Luther, in 1529. English translation, by J. C. Hotten, 1860, p. 47. See BREEF.

BRIM, a violent irascible woman, as inflammable and unpleasant as brimstone, from which the word is contracted.

BRINEY, the sea.

BRITT, the street shortening for the Britannia Theatre.

BRISKET-BEATER, a Roman Catholic.

BROAD-COOPER, a person employed by brewers to negotiate with publicans.

BROADS, cards. BROADSMAN, a card-sharper.

"BROAD AND SHALLOW," an epithet applied to the so-called "Broad Church," in contradistinction to the "High" and "Low" Churches.
See HIGH AND DRY.

BROAD-FENCER, card-seller at races.

BROSIER, a bankrupt.—*Cheshire.* BROSIER-MY-DAME, school term, implying a clearing of the housekeeper's larder of provisions, in revenge for stinginess.—*Eton.*

BROTHER-CHIP, fellow carpenter. Also, BROTHER-WHIP, a fellow coachman; and BROTHER-BLADE, of the same occupation or calling—originally a fellow-soldier.

BROWN, a halfpenny.—*See BLUNT.*

BROWN, "to do BROWN," to do well or completely, (in allusion to roasting;) "doing it BROWN," prolonging the frolic, or exceeding sober bounds; "DONE BROWN," taken in, deceived, or surprised.

BROWN BESS, the old Government regulation musket; a musket with a browned barrel; also BLACK BESS. A suggestion has been made that BESS may be from the German BUSCHE, or BOSCHIE, a barrel.

BROWN SALVE! an exclamation of surprise at what is heard, and at the same time means, "I understand you."

BROWN-STUDY, a reverie. Very common even in educated society, but hardly admissible in writing, and therefore considered a vulgarism. It is derived, by a writer in *Notes and Queries*, from BROW STUDY, and he cites the old German BRAUN, or AUG-BRAUN, an eye-brow.—*Ben Jonson.*

BROWN TALK, conversation of an exceedingly proper character, Quakerish. Compare BLUE.

BROWN-TO, to understand, to comprehend.—*American.*

BRUISER, a fighting man, a pugilist.—*Pugilistic.* Shakspeare uses the word BRUISING in a similar sense.

BRUSH, a fox's tail, a house-painter.

BRUSH, or BRUSH OFF, to run away, or move on.—*Old Cant.*

BUB, drink of any kind —*See GRUB.* Middleton, the dramatist, mentions BUBBER, a great drinker.

BUB, a teat, woman's breast, plural BUBBIES; no doubt from BIBE. Also the preceding.

BUBBLE, to over-reach, deceive.—*Old.* (*Acta Regia*, ii. 248, 1726.)

BUBBLE-AND-SQUEAK, a dish composed of pieces of cold boiled meat and greens, and afterwards fried, which have thus first BUBBLED in the pot, and then SQUEAKED or hissed in the pan.

BUBBLE-COMPANY, a swindling association.

BROWN PAPERMEN, low gamblers.

BRUM, a counterfeit coin. *Nearly obsolete.* Corruption of Brummagem, (Bromwicham,) the ancient name of Birmingham, the great emporium for plated goods and imitation jewellery.

BUCK, a gay or smart man; also an unlicensed cabman.

BUCKHORSE, a smart blow or box on the ear; derived from the name of a celebrated "bruiser" of that name.

BUCKLE, to bend; "I can't **BUCKLE** to that," I don't understand it; to yield or give in to a person. *Shakspeare* uses the word in the latter sense, *Henry IV.*, i. 1; and *Halliwell* says that "the commentators do not supply another example." How strange that in our own streets the term should be used every day! Stop the first costermonger, and he will soon inform you of the various meanings of **BUCKLE**.—*See Notes and Queries*, vols. vii., viii., ix.

BUCKLE-BEGGAR, a COUPLE-BEGGAR, which see.

BUCKLEY, "Who struck **BUCKLEY**?" a common phrase used to irritate Irishmen.

BUCKLE-TO, to bend to one's work, to begin at once, and with great energy—from buckling on one's armour before a combat.

BUCKRA, a white man.—*West Indian Negro*.

BUCKSHISH, a present of money. Over all India, and the East generally, the natives lose no opportunity of asking for **BUCKSHISH**. The usage is such a complete nuisance, that the word is sometimes answered with a blow; this is termed **BAMBOO BUCKSHISH**.

BUDGE, to move, to inform, to **SPLIT**, or tell tales.

BUFF, the bare skin; "stripped to the **BUFF**."

BUFF, to swear to, or accuse; to **SPLIT**, or peach upon.—*Old* word for boasting, 1582.

BUFFER, a navy term for a boatswain's mate, part of whose duties is to administer the "cat."

BUFFER, a familiar expression for a jolly acquaintance, probably from the *French BOUFFARD*, a fool or clown; a "jolly old **BUFFER**," said of a good-humoured or liberal old man. In 1737, a **BUFFER** was a "rogue that killed good sound horses for the sake of their skins, by running a long wire into them."—*Bacchus and Venus*. The term was once applied to those who took false oaths for a consideration.

BUFFLE-HEAD, a stupid or obtuse person.—*Miege. German, BUFFEL-HAUPt*, buffalo-headed. Occurs in *Plautus' Comedies made English*, 1694.

BUFFS, the third regiment of foot in the British army.

BUFFY, intoxicated.—*Household Words*, No. 183.

BUGGY, a gig, or light chaise. Common term in America and in India.

BUG-WALK, a coarse term for a bed.

BUBBLEY-JOCK, a turkey, or silly boasting fellow; a prig.—*Scottish*. In the north of England the bird is called a **BOBBLE-COCK**. Both names no doubt from its cry.

BUDGE, strong drink; **BUDGY**, drunk; **BUDGING-KEN**, a public-house; "cove of the **BUDGING-KEN**," the landlord. Probably a corruption of **BOOZE**.—*North*.

BUILD, applied in fashionable Slang to the make or style of dress, &c.: “it’s a tidy BUILD, who made it?”

BULGER, large; synonymous with **BUSTER**.

BULL, one who agrees to purchase stock at a future day, at a stated price, but who does not possess money to pay for it, trusting to a rise in public securities to render the transaction a profitable one. Should stocks fall, the **BULL** is then called upon to pay the difference. See **BEAR**, who is the opposite of a **BULL**, the former selling, the latter purchasing—the one operating for a *fall* or a *pull down*, whilst the other operates for a *rise* or *toss up*.

BULL, a crown-piece, formerly **BULL’S EYE**. See “**WORK THE BULLS.**”

BULL-BEEF, a term of contempt; “as ugly as **BULL-BEEF**,” “go to the billy-fencer and sell yourself for **BULL-BEEF**.”

“**BULL THE CASK**,” to pour hot water into an empty rum puncheon, and let it stand until it extracts the spirit from the wood. The result is drunk by sailors in default of something stronger.—*Sea.*

BULLFINCH, a hunting term for a large, thick, quickset hedge, difficult alike to “top” or burst through. *Query*, corruption of **BOLEFENCE**?

BULLY, a braggart; but in the language of the streets, a man of the most degraded morals, who protects fallen females, and lives off their miserable earnings—*Shakspeare, Midsummer Night’s Dream*, iii. i : iv. 2. This epithet is often applied in a commendable sense among the vulgar; thus—a good fellow or a good horse will be termed “a **BULLY** fellow,” “a **BULLY** horse;” and “a **BULLY** woman” signifies a right, good, motherly old soul.

BULLYRAG, to abuse or scold vehemently; to swindle one out of money by intimidation and sheer abuse, as alleged in a late cab case, (*Evans v. Robinson.*)

BUM, the part on which we sit.—*Shakspeare*. **BUMBAGS**, trousers; *Gael.* and *Fr.*, **BUN**, a base or bottom; *Welsh*, **BON**, the lowest or worst part of anything.

BUM-BAILIFF, a sheriff’s-officer,—a term, some say, derived from the proximity which this gentleman generally maintains to his victims. *Blackstone* says it is a corruption of “bound bailiff.”

BUMBLE, to muffle. **BUMBLE-FOOTED**, club-footed.

BUMBLES, coverings for the eyes of horses apt to shy in harness.

BUMBLE, a beadle. Adopted from *Dickens’s* character in *Oliver Twist*. This and “**BUMBLEDOM**” are now common.

BUFFER, a dog. Their skins were formerly in great request—hence the term **BUFF** meaning in old English *to skin*. It is still used in the ring, **BUFFED** meaning stripped to the skin. In Irish Cant, **BUFFER** is a boxer. The **BUFFER** of a railway carriage doubtless received its very appropriate name from the old pugilistic application of this term.

BUG-HUNTER, a low wretch who plunders drunken men.

BULL, term amongst prisoners for the meat served to them in jail.

BULKY, a constable.—*North.*

BUMBLE-PUPPY, a game played in public-houses on a large stone, placed in a slanting direction, on the lower end of which holes are excavated, and numbered like the holes in a bagatelle-table. The player rolls a stone ball from the higher end, and according to the number of the hole it falls into the game is counted. It is undoubtedly the very ancient game of *Troule-in-madame*.

BUM-BOAT, a shore boat which supplies ships with provisions, and serves as means of communication between the sailors and the shore.

BUM-CURTAIN, an old name for an academical gown when they were worn scant and short, especially those of the students of St John's College.—*Cumb. Univ.*

BUMMAREE. This term is given to a class of speculating salesmen at Billingsgate market, not recognised as such by the trade, but who get a living by buying large quantities of fish from the salesmen and re-selling them to smaller buyers. The word has been used in the statutes and bye-laws of the market for upwards of 200 years. It has been variously derived. Some persons think it may be from the French *BONNE MAREE*, good fresh fish! “*Marée* signifie toute sorte de poisson de mer que n'est pas sale, bonne marée—*marée fraîche, vendeur de marée.*”—*Dictionnaire Académique Franc.* The BUMMAREES are accused of many trade tricks. One of them is to blow up cod-fish with a pipe until they look double their actual size. Of course when the fish come to table they are flabby, sunken, and half dwindled away. In Norwich, to BUMMAREE ONE is to run up a score at a public-house just open, and is equivalent to “running into debt with one.” One of the advertisements issued by Hy. Robinson's “OFFICE,” over against Threadneedle Street, was this:—

“Touching Advice from the OFFICE, you are desired to give and take notice as followeth:—

“O F Monies to be taken up, or delivered on *Botto-maria*, commonly called *Bonarie*.
“O F money to be put out or taken upon interest,” &c.

—*The Publick Intelligencer*, numb. 17, 25th June 1660.

BUMPER, according to Johnson from “bump,” but probably from French *BON-PERE*, the fixed toast in monastic life of old, now used for “full measure.” A match at quoits, bowls, &c., may end in a “BUMPER game,” if the play and score be all on one side.

BUMPTIOUS, arrogant, self-sufficient.

BUNCH-OF-FIVES, the hand, or fist.

BUNDLE, “to BUNDLE a person off,” i.e., to pack him off, send him flying.

BUNDLING, a custom in Wales, and now frequently in America, of men and women sleeping, where the divisions of the house will not permit of better or more decent accommodation, with all their clothes on.

BUNG, the landlord of a public-house.

BUNG, to give, pass, hand over, drink, or indeed to perform any action.

BUNG UP, to close up.—*Pugilistic*. “BUNG over the rag,” hand over the money.—*Old*, used by Beaumont and Fletcher, and Shakspeare. Also, to deceive one by a lie, to CRAM, which see.

BUNKER, beer.

BUNKUM, American importation, denoting false sentiments in speaking, pretended enthusiasm, &c. The expression arose from a speech made by a North Carolina Senator.

BUNTS, costermongers' perquisites; the money obtained by giving light weight, &c.; costermongers' goods sold by boys on commission. Probably a corruption of *bonus*, BONE, being the Slang for good. BUNCE, Grose gives as the Cant word for money.

BURDON'S HOTEL, Whitecross Street Prison, of which the Governor is or was a Mr Burdon. Every prison has a nickname of this kind, either from the name of the Governor, or from some local circumstance. The Queen's Bench has also an immense number of names—SPIKE PARK, &c.; and every Chief-Justice stands godfather to it.

BURKE, to kill, to murder, secretly and without noise, by means of strangulation. From Burke, the notorious Edinburgh murderer, who, with an accomplice named Hare, used to decoy people into the den he inhabited, kill them, and sell their bodies for dissection. The wretches having been apprehended and tried, Burke was executed, while Hare, having turned king's evidence, was released. Bishop was their London imitator. The term BURKE is now usually applied to any project that is quietly stopped or stifled—as “the question has been BURKED.” A book suppressed before publication is said to be BURKED.

BURRAH, great; as BURRA SAIB, a great man; BURRA KHANAH, a great dinner.—*Anglo-Indian*.

BUS or BUSS, abbreviation of “omnibus,” a public carriage. Also, a kiss, abbrev. of *Fr. BAISER*. A Mr Shillibeer started the first BUS in London. Why is Temple Bar like a lady's veil? Because it wants to be removed to make way for the BUSSES.

BUS, business (of which it is a contraction) or action, on the stage.—*Theatrical*.

BUST, or BURST, to tell tales, to SPLIT, to inform. BUSTING, informing against accomplices when in custody.

BUSTER, (BURSTER,) a small new loaf; “twopenny BUSTER,” a twopenny loaf. “A pennorth o' BEES-WAX (cheese) and a penny BUSTER,” a common snack at beershops.

BUSTER, an extra size; “what a BUSTER,” i.e., what a large one; “in for a BUSTER,” determined on an extensive frolic or spree. *Scotch*, BUSTUOUS; *Icelandic*, BOSTRA.

BUSY-SACK, a carpet-bag.

BUTCHA, a Hindoo word in use among Englishmen for the young of any

BUNK, to decamp. “BUNK it!” i.e., be off.

BURERK, a lady, a showily-dressed woman.

“BURY A MOLL,” to run away from a mistress.

BUSKER, a man who sings or performs in a public-house.—*Scotch*.

BUSK, (or BUSKING,) to sell obscene songs and books at the bars and in the tap-rooms of public-houses. Sometimes implies selling any articles.

BUSTLE, (money,) “to draw the BUSTLE.”

animal. In England we ask after the children; in India the health of the BUTCHAS is tenderly inquired for.

BUTCHER, the king in playing-cards.

BUTCHER'S MOURNING, a white hat with a black mourning hat-band. This meaning is given on the authority of Mr George Cruikshank.

BUTTER, or BATTER, praise or flattery. To BUTTER, to flatter, cajole. *Punch* defines flattery as "the milk of human kindness churned into BUTTER."

BUTTER FINGERED, apt to let things fall.

BUTTON, a decoy, sham purchaser, &c. At any mock or sham auction seedy specimens may be seen. Probably from the connexion of buttons with *Brummagem*, which is often used as a synonyme for a sham. —See BONNET.

BUTTONER, a man who entices another to play. See SONNETER.

BUTTONS, a page,—from the rows of gilt buttons which adorn his jacket.

BUTTONS, "not to have all one's BUTTONS;" to be deficient in intellect.

BUTTY, a word used in the mining districts to denote a kind of overseer.

(2.) Also used by the Royal Marines in the sense of comrade; a policeman's assistant, one of the staff in a *mélee*.

BUZ, to share [equally the last of a bottle of wine, when there is not enough for a full glass to each of the party.

BUZ, a well-known flash game, played as follows:—The chairman commences saying "one," the next on the left hand "two," the next "three," and so on to seven, when "BUZ" must be said. Every seven and multiple of 7, as 14, 17, 21, 27, 28, &c., must not be mentioned, but "BUZ" instead. Whoever breaks the rule pays a fine, which is thrown on the table, and the accumulation expended in drink for the company. See "SNOOKS and WALKER" for more complicated varieties of a similar game.

BY GEORGE, an exclamation similar to BY JOVE. The term is older than is frequently imagined—vide *Eucchus and Venus*, (p. 117,) 1737. "Fore (or by) GEORGE, I'd knock him down." A street compliment to Saint

BUZ, to pick pockets; BUZ-FAKING, robbing.

BUZ-MAN, an informer.

BUZZER, a pickpocket. Grose gives BUZ-COVE and BUZ-GLOAK; the latter is very ancient Cant.

BUZ-BLOAK, a pickpocket, who principally confines his attention to purses and loose cash. Grose gives BUZ-GLOAK, (or CLOAK?) an ancient Cant word. BUZ-NAPPER, a young pickpocket.

BUZ-NAPPER'S ACADEMY, a school in which young thieves are trained. Figures are dressed up, and experienced tutors stand in various difficult attitudes for the boys to practise upon. When clever enough they are sent on the streets. It is reported that a house of this nature is situated in a court near Hatton Garden. The system is well explained in Dickens's *Oliver Twist*. Also BUZ-KNACKER.

George, the patron Saint of England, or possibly to the House of Hanover.

BY GOLLY, an ejaculation, or oath; a compromise for "by God." **BY GUM**, is another oblique oath. In the United States, small boys are permitted by their guardians to say **GOL DARN** anything, but they are on no account allowed to commit the profanity of **G—d d—g** anything. An effective ejaculation and moral waste-pipe for interior passion or wrath is seen in the exclamation—**BY THE EVER-LIVING JUMPING-MOSRS**—a harmless phrase, that from its length expends a considerable quantity of fiery anger.

CAB, in statutory language, "a hackney carriage drawn by one horse." Abbreviated from **CABRIOLET**, French; originally meaning "a light, low chaise." The wags of Paris playing upon the word (quasi *cabri au lait*) used to call a superior turn-out of the kind a *cabri au crème*. Our abbreviation, which certainly smacks of Slang, has been stamped with the authority of "**GEORGE, Ranger.**" See the notices affixed to the carriage entrances of St James's Park.

CAB, to stick together, to muck, or tumble up.—*Deronshire*.

CABBAGE, pieces of cloth said to be purloined by tailors.

CABBAGE, to pilfer or purloin. Termed by Johnson a "Cant word," but adopted by later lexicographers as a respectable term. Said to have been first used in the above sense by *Arbuthnot*.

CABBAGE-HEAD, a soft-headed person.

CABOBBLE, to confuse.—*Suffolk*.

CABBY, the driver of a cab.

CACKLING-COVE, an actor. Also called a **MUMMERY-COVE**. *Theat.*

CACKLE-TUB, a pulpit.

CAD, or **CADGER**, (from which it is shortened,) a mean or vulgar fellow; a beggar; one who would rather live on other people than work for himself; a man who tries to worm something out of another, either money or information. Johnson uses the word, and gives *huckster* as the meaning, but I never heard it used in this sense. Apparently from **CAGER**, or **GAGER**, the old *Cant* term for a man. The exclusives at the English Universities apply the term **CAD** to all non-members.

CAD, an omnibus conductor.

CADGE, to beg in an artful wheedling manner.—*North*. In Scotland to **CADGE** is to wander, to go astray. See under **CODGER**.

CADGING, begging with an eye to pilfering when an opportunity occurs.

CAG, to irritate, affront, anger.

CAG-MAG, bad food, scraps, odds and ends; or that which no one could relish. *Grose* gives **CAGG MAGGS**, old and tough Lincolnshire geese, sent to London to feast the poor cockneys. *Gael.*, *French*, and *Welsh*, **CAC**, and **MAGN**. A correspondent at Trinity College, Dublin, considers this as originally a University Slang term for a *bad cook*, *kakos myrtipos*. There is also a *Latin* word used by Pliny, **MAGMA**, denoting dregs or dross.

CAGE, a minor kind of prison.—*Shakspeare*, Part ii. *Henry IV.*, iv. 4.

CAKE, a “flat,” a soft or doughy person, a fool.

“CALL A GO,” in street “patter,” is to remove to another spot, or address the public in different vein. Also to give in, yield, at any game or business.

CALEB QUOTEM, a parish clerk; a jack of all trades.

CAL., an abbreviation for “Calcraft,” the common hangman.

CALABOOSE, a prison.—*Sea Slang*, from the Spanish.

CALIFORNIA, money. Derivation very obvious.

CAMERONIANS, THE, the Twenty-sixth Regiment of Foot in the British Army.

CAMESA, shirt or chemise.—*Span.* See its abbreviated form, MISN, from the ancient *Cunt*, COMMISSION. Probably reintroduced by the remains of De Lacy Evans's Spanish Legion on their return. See Somerville's account of the Span. Leg., for the curious facility with which the lower classes in England adopt foreign words as Slang and Cant terms. *Italian*, CAMICLA.

CAMISTER, a preacher, clergyman, or master.

CANARY, a sovereign. This is stated by a correspondent to be a Norwich term, that city being famous for its breed of those birds.

CANISTER, the head.—*Pugilistic*.

CANISTER-CAP, a hat.—*Pugilistic*.

CANNIBALS, the training boats for the Cambridge freshmen, i.e., “CAN-NOT-PULLS.” The term is applied both to boats and rowers.—See SLOGGERS.

CANNIKEN, a small can, similar to PANNIKIN.—*Shakspeare*.

CANT, a blow or toss; “a CANT over the kisser,” a blow on the mouth.—*Kentish*.

CANTAB, a student at Cambridge.

“CANT OF TOGS,” a gift of clothes.

CANTANKEROUS, litigious, bad-tempered. An American corruption probably of contentious. A reviewer, however, of this book in the *Book-seller* of May 26 derives it from the Anglo-Norman CONTEK,* litigation or strife. Another correspondent suggests “cankerous” as the origin.

CANVASSEENS, sailors' canvas trousers.

CAP, a false cover to a tossing coin.—See COVER-DOWN.

CAPER-MERCHANT, a dancing-master.

CAPERS, dancing, frolicking; “to cut CAPER-SAUCE,” i.e., to dance upon nothing—be hanged, very coarse.

CAPPER-CLAWING, female encounter, where caps are torn, and nails freely used. Sometimes it is pronounced CLAPPER-CLAW. The word occurs in *Shakspeare*.—*Troilus and Cressida*, v., 4.

* Bailey has CONTEKE, contention, as a Spenserian word, and the O.E., CONTEKORS, quarrelsome persons.

CAKEY-PANNUM-FENCER, a man who sells street pastry.

CARAVAN, a railway train.

CARAVANSERA, a railway station. A "TIP" for the late pugilistic contest between King and Heenan was given in these words:—"The SCRATCH must be TOED at sharp five. The CARAVAN starting at that hour from the CARAVANSERA," i.e., London Bridge.

CARBOY, a general term in most parts of the world for a very large glass or earthenware bottle.

CARD, a character. "A queer CARD," i.e., an odd fish.

CARDINAL, a lady's cloak. This, I am assured, is the *Ser'en Dials Cant* term for a lady's garment; but, curiously enough, the same name is given to the most fashionable patterns of the article by Regent Street drapers. A cloak with this name was in fashion in the year 1760. It received its title from its similarity in shape to one of the vestments of a cardinal.

CARPET, "upon the CARPET," any subject or matter that is uppermost for discussion or conversation. Frequently quoted as *sur le tapis*, but it does not seem to be a correct Parisian phrase. Also *scravnts' Slang*. When a domestic is summoned by the master or mistress to receive a warning or reprimand, he or she is said to be CARPETED. The corresponding term in commercial establishments is a WIGGING, which see.

CARNEY, s., soft hypocritical language. Also, v., to flatter, wheedle, or insinuate one's-self.—*Prov.*

CARNISH, meat, from the *Ital.* CARNE, flesh; a *Lingua Franca* importation; CARNISH-KEN, a thieves' eating-house; "cove of the CARNISH-KEN," the keeper thereof.—*North Country Cant.*

CAROON, five shillings. *French*, COURONNE; *Gipsy* COURNA; *Spanish* COURNA, half-a-crown.

CARROT. "Take a CARROT!" a vulgar insulting phrase.

CARROTS, the coarse and satirical term for red hair. An epigram gives an illustration of the use of this term:—

"Why scorn red hair? The Greeks, we know,
(I note it here in charity)
Had taste in beauty, and with them
The graces were all Xápirai!"

CARRIER-PIGEON, a swindler, one who formerly used to cheat lottery office keepers. *Nearly obsolete.*

"CARRY ME OUT!" a pretended exclamation of astonishment on hearing news too good to be true, or a story too marvellous to be believed. Sometimes varied by "Let me die," i.e., I can't survive that. Profanely derived from the *Nunc dimittis*, (Luke xi. 29.) The Irish say, "CARRY ME OUT, and bury me decently."

CARRY-ON, to joke a person to excess, to "carry on" a "spree" too far; "how we CARRIED ON, to be sure!" i.e., what fun we had. *Nautical term*—from carrying on sail.

CARRIWITCHET, a hoaxing, puzzling question, not admitting of a satisfactory answer, as—"How far is it from the first of July to London

Bridge?" "If a bushel of apples cost ten shillings, how long will it take for an oyster to eat its way through a barrel of soap?"

CART, a race-course. *Query*, if a corruption of, or connected with, the well-known "correct card" of Dorling, and other clerks of the racing course?

CARTS, a pair of shoes. In Norfolk the carapace of a crab is called a *crab cart*; hence CARTS would be synonymous with CRAB SHELLS, which see.

CART-WHEEL, a five-shilling piece.

CA-SA, a writ of CAPIAS AD SATISFACIENDAM.—*Legal Slang*.

CASA, or CASE, a house, respectable or otherwise. Probably from the Italian CASA.—*Old Cant*. The Dutch use the word KAST in a vulgar sense for a house, i.e., MOTTEKAST, a brothel. CASE sometimes means a water-closet.

CASCADE, to vomit.

CASE. A few years ago the term CASE was applied generally to persons or things; "what a CASE he is," i.e., what a curious person; "a rum CASE that," or, "you are a CASE," both synonymous with the phrase "odd fish," common half-a-century ago. This would seem to have been originally a "case" for the police court; drunkenness, &c. Among young ladies at boarding-schools a CASE means a love affair.

CASK, fashionable Slang for a brougham, or other private carriage.—*Household Words*, No. 183.

CASSAM, cheese—not CAFFAN, which Egan, in his edition of *Grose*, has ridiculously inserted.—*Ancient Cant*. Latin, CASEUS. Gael. and Irish CAISE.

"CAST UP ONE'S ACCOUNTS," to vomit.—*Old*.

CASTOR, a hat. CASTOR was once the ancient word for the animal commonly known as the BEAVER; and, strange to add, BEAVER was the Slang for CASTOR, or hat, thirty years ago, before gossamer came into fashion.

CAT, to vomit like a cat. Perhaps from CATARACT; but see SHOOT THE CAT.

CAT—CAT O' NINE TAILS, a whip with that number of lashes used to punish refractory sailors.—*Sea*.

CAT-FACED, a vulgar and very common expression of contempt in the North of England.

CATAMARAN, a disagreeable old woman.—*Thackeray*.

CATARACT, a black satin scarf arranged for the display of jewellery, much in vogue among "commercial gents."

CATCH-'EM-ALIVE, a trap; also a small-tooth comb.

CASE, a bad crown-piece. HALF-A-CASE, a counterfeit half-crown. There are two sources, either of which may have contributed this Slang term. CASER is the Hebrew word for a crown; and silver coin is frequently counterfeited by coating or CASING pewter or iron imitations with silver.

CAT, a lady's muff; "to free a CAT," i.e., steal a muff.

CATCHY, (similar formation to *touchy*,) inclined to take an undue advantage. CATERWAULING, applied derisively to inharmonious singing; also love-making, from the noise of cats similarly engaged—in both cases.

CATEVER, a queer, or singular affair; anything poor, or very bad. From the *Lingua Franca*, and *Italian*, CATTIVO, bad. Variously spelled by the lower orders.—See KERTEVIER.

CATGUT-SCRAPER, a fiddler.

CAT-LAP, a contemptuous expression for weak drink.

CAT'S-MEAT, a coarse term for the lungs—the “lights” or lungs of animals being usually sold to feed cats.

CAT'S-WATER, “old Tom,” or Gin.

CATCH-PENNY, any temporary contrivance to obtain money from the public; penny shows, or cheap exhibitions.

CAT-IN-THE-PAN, a traitor, a turn-coat—derived by some from the Greek, *καταπαν*, altogether; or from *cake in pan*, a pan-cake, which is frequently turned from side to side.

CAUCUS, a private meeting held for the purpose of concerting measures, agreeing upon candidates for office before an election, &c. This is an American term, and a corruption of CAULKER'S MEETING, being derived from an association of the shipping interest at Boston, previous to the War of Independence, who were very active in getting up opposition to England.—See *Pickering's Vocabulary*.

CAULK, to take a surreptitious nap, sleep generally from the ordinary meaning of the term; stopping leaks, repairing damages, so as to come out as good as new.—*See term*.

CAULKER, a dram.—*Noctes Ambrosianæ*.

CAULKER, a too marvellous story, a lie. CHOKER has the same sense.

CAVAULTING, a vulgar phrase equivalent to “horsing.” The *Italian* CAVALLINO, signifies a rake or debauchee.—*Lingua Franca*, CAVOLTA.

CAVE, or CAVE IN, to submit, shut up.—*American*. Metaphor taken from the sinking of an abandoned mining shaft.

CA-VE! *Latin*, beware! used by school-boys to give warning of the approach of the master.—See NIX.

CAVE-OH-HARMONY, the cider cellars, or Evans's singing saloon.—*Thackeray*.

CHAFF, to gammon, joke, quiz, or praise ironically. CHAFF-bone, the jaw-bone.—*Yorkshire*. CHAFF, jesting. In *Anglo-Saxon*, CFAF is chaff; and CEAFL, bill, beak, or jaw. In the *Ancren Riwle*, A.D. 1221, CEAFL is used in the sense of idle discourse.

CHAFFER, the mouth; “moisten your CHAFFER,” i.e., take something to drink.

“CAT AND KITTEN SNEAKING,” stealing pint and quart pots from public-houses.

CHALK OUT, or **CHALK DOWN**, to mark out a line of conduct or action; to make a rule or order. Phrase derived from the *Workshop*.

CHALK UP, to credit, make entry in account books of indebtedness; "I can't pay you now, but you can CHALK IT UP," i.e., charge me with the article in your day-book. From the old practice of chalking one's score for drink behind the bar doors of public-houses.

CHALKS, "to walk one's CHALKS," to move off, or run away. An ordeal for drunkenness used on board ship, to see whether the suspected person can walk on a chalked line without overstepping it on either side.—*See* the following.

CHALKS, degrees, marks; so called from being made by a piece of chalk; "to beat by long CHALKS," i.e., to be superior by many degrees.

CHANCERY, "to get a man's head into CHANCERY" i.e., to get an opponent's head firmly under one's arm, where it can be pummelled with immense power, and without any possibility of immediate extrication. —*Pugilistic term.*

CHANGE, small money. The overplus returned after paying for a thing in a round sum. Hence a Slang expression used when a person receives a "settler" in the shape either of a repartee or a blow—"Take your CHANGE out of that!"

CHAP, a fellow, a boy; "a low CHAP," a low fellow—abbreviation of **CHAP-MAN**, a huckster. Used by *Byron* in his *Critical Remarks*.

CHAPEL, a printer's assembly, held for the purpose of discussing differences between employer and workmen, trade regulations, &c. The term is scarcely Slang, but some COMPOS. ask its insertion in this work.

CHAPEL-OF-EASE. *French*, CABINET D' AISANCE, a house of office.

CHARLEY, a watchman, a beadle.

CHATTER-BASKET, common term for a prattling child amongst nurses.

CHATTER-BOX, an incessant talker or chatterer.

CHATTS, lice, or body vermin. *Pr'r.*, any small things of the same kind.

CHATTY, a filthy person, one whose clothes are not free from vermin; **CHATTY DOSS**, a lousy bed.

CHAUNTER-CULLS, a singular body of men who used to haunt certain well-known public-houses, and write satirical or libellous ballads on any person, or body of persons, for a consideration. 7s. 6d. was the usual fee, and in three hours the ballad might be heard in St Paul's Churchyard, or other public spot. As strange as it may appear, there are actually two men in London at the present day who gain their living in this way. Very recently they were singing before the establishment of a fashionable tailor in Regent Street; and not long since they were bawling their doggerel rhymes outside the mansion of a Norfolk M.P. in Belgravia.

CHARIOT-BUZZING, picking pockets in an omnibus.

CHARLEY-PITCHER, a low, cheating gambler.

CHATTRY-FEEDER, a spoon.—*Millbank Prison.*

CHATTS, dice,—formerly the gallows; a bunch of se 1s.

CHAUNTERS, those street sellers of ballads, last copies of verses, and other broadsheets, who sing or bawl the contents of their papers. They often term themselves PAPER WORKERS.—See HORSE CHAUNTERS.

CHAUNT, to sing the contents of any paper in the streets. CANT, as applied to vulgar language, was, in all probability, derived from CHAUNT.—See *Introduction* for origin of the term.

CHAW, to chew; **CHAW UP**, to get the better of one, finish him up; **CHAWED UP**, utterly done for.

CHAW OVER, to repeat one's words with a view to ridicule; **CHAW-BACON** a rustic.

CHEAP, "doing it on the CHEAP," living economically, or keeping up a showy appearance with very little means.

CHEAP JACKS, or **JOHNS**, oratorical hucksters and patterers of hardware, &c., at fairs and races. They put an article up at a high price, and then cheapen it by degrees, indulging all the time in volleys of coarse wit, until it becomes to all appearance a bargain, and as such it is bought by one of the crowd. The popular idea is that the inverse method of auctioneering saves them paying for the auction licence.—See DUTCH AUCTION.

CHEE-CHEE, this word is used in a rather offensive manner to denote Eurasians, or children by an English father and native mother. It takes its origin in a very common expression of these half-caste females, "CHEE-CHEE," equivalent to our Oh, fie!—Nonsense!—For shame!—*Anglo-Indian*.

CHEEK, share or portion; "where's my CHEEK?" where is my allowance?

CHEEK, impudence, assurance; **CHEEKY**, saucy or forward.

CHEEK, to irritate by impudence, to accuse.—*Lincolnshire*.

"CHEEK BY JOWL," side by side—said often of persons in such close confabulation as almost to have their faces touch.

CHEEKS! a jeering and insulting exclamation, believed to be of *Scotch* origin.

CHEESE, anything good, first-rate in quality, genuine, pleasant, or advantageous, is termed the CHEESE. *Mayhew* thinks CHEESE, in this sense, is from the *Saxon* CEOSAN, to choose, and quotes *Chaucer*, who uses CHESE in the sense of choice. The *London Guide*, 1818, says it was from some young fellows translating "c'est une autre CHOSE" into "that is another CHEESE." But the expression CHEESE may be found in the *Gipsy* vocabulary, and in the *Hindostane* and *Persian* languages. In the last CHIZ means a thing.—See under STILTON; also p. 7 *Introd.*

CHEESE, or **CHEESE IT**, (evidently a corruption of cease,) leave off, or have done; "CHEESE your barrikin," hold your noise.

CHEESY, fine or showy.

CHAUNT, "to CHAUNT the play," to explain the tricks and manœuvres of thieves.

CHERRY-BUMS, or **CHERUBIMS**, a nickname given to the 11th Hussars, (Prince Albert's Own,) from their crimson overalls.

CHERRY-COLOUR, a term used in a cheating trick at cards. When the cards are being dealt, a knowing one offers to bet that he will tell the colour of the turn-up card. "Done!" says Mr Green. The sum being named, Mr Sharp affirms that it will be **CHERRY-COLOUR**; and as cherries are either black or red, he wins, leaving his victim a wiser man, it is to be hoped, and not a *better* for the future.

CHERRY-MERRY, a present of money. **CHERRY-MERRY-BAMBOO**, a beating—*Anglo-Indian*.

CHERUBS, or **CHERUBIMS**, the chorister boys who chaunt in the services at the abbeys.

CHESHIRE CAT, "to grin like a **CHESHIRE CAT**," to display the teeth and gums when laughing. Formerly the phrase was "to grin like a **CHESHIRE CAT eating CHEESE**." A *hurrah* satisfactory explanation has been given of this phrase—that Cheshire is a county palatine, and the cats, when they think of it, are so tickled with the notion that they can't help grinning.

CHICKEN, a term applied to anything young, small, or insignificant; **CHICKEN STAKES**; "she's no **CHICKEN**," said of an old maid.

CHICKEN HEARTED, cowardly, fearful.

CHI-IKE, a hurrah; a good word, or hearty praise; term used by the *Costermongers*, who assist the sale of each other's goods by a little friendly although noisy commendation.

CHILDREN'S SHOES, to make, to be made naught of.—*See SHOES*.

CHIMNEY-SWEEPER, the aperient mixture commonly called a *black dose*.

CHINCHIN, a salutation, a compliment.—*Anglo-Chinese*.

CHINK, money.—*Ancient*.—*See FLORIO*.

CHINKERS, money.

CHIN-WAG, officious impertinence.

"**CHIP OF THE OLD BLOCK**," a child who resembles its father. **BROTHER CHIP**, one of the same trade or profession.

CHIPS, money; also a nickname for a carpenter.—*See*.

CHIRP, to give information, "peach."

CHISEL, to cheat, to take a slice off anything.

CHIT, a letter; corruption of a *Hindoo* word.—*Anglo-Indian*.

CHITTERLINGS, the shirt frills worn still by ancient beaux; properly the *entrails of a pig*, to which they are supposed to bear some resemblance. *Belgian*, **SCHYTERLINGH**.

CHIVE, or **CHIVET**, a shout, a halloo, or cheer; loud tongued. From **CHEVY CHASE**, a boy's game, in which the word **CHEVY** is bawled aloud; or from the *Gipsy* i.—*See Introduction*.

CHIVE-FENCER, a street hawker of cutlery.

CHIVEY, to chase round, or hunt about. Apparently from **CHIVET-CHASE**.

CHOAKEE, the black hole.—*Military*—*Anglo-Indian*.

CHOCK-FULL, full till the scale comes down with a shock.—*French*, choc.
A correspondent suggests CHOKED-FULL.

CHOKE OFF, to get rid of. Bull-dogs can only be made to loose their hold by choking them.

CHOKER, a cravat, a neckerchief. **WHITE-CHOKER**, the white neckerchief worn by mutes at a funeral, and waiters at a tavern. Clergymen are frequently termed WHITE-CHOKERS.

CHOKER, or **WIND STOPPER**, a garotter.

CHONKEYS, a kind of mince-meat baked in a crust, and sold in the streets.

CHOOPS, a corruption of CHOOOPRAO, keep silence.—*Anglo-Indian*.

CHOOTAH, small, insignificant.—*Anglo-Indian*.

CHOP, in the Canton jargon of *Anglo-Chinese*, this word has several significations. It means an official seal, a permit, a boat-load of teas. FIRST CHOP signifies first quality; and CHOR-CHOP, to make haste.

CHOP, to exchange, to "swoop."—*Old*.

CHOPS, properly CHAPS, the mouth, or cheeks; "down in the chops," or "down in the mouth," i.e., sad or melancholy.

CHOUSE, to cheat out of one's share or portion. Hackluyt, CHIAUS; Massinger, CHIAUS. From the *Turkish*, in which language it signifies an interpreter. Gifford gives a curious story as to its origin:—

"In the year 1609 there was attached to the Turkish embassy in England an interpreter, or CHIAOUS, who, by cunning, aided by his official position, managed to cheat the Turkish and Persian merchants, then in London, out of the large sum of £4000, then deemed an enormous amount. From the notoriety which attended the fraud, and the magnitude of the swindle, any one who cheated or defrauded was said to chiaous, or chaire, or CHOUSE; to do, that is, as this Chiaous had done."—See *Trench, Eng Past and Present*, p. 87.

CHIAUS, according to *Sandys*, (*Travels*, p. 48,) is "one who goes on embassies, executes commandments," &c. The particular Chiaus in question is alluded to in *Ben Jonson's Alchymist*, 1610.

"D. What do you think of me?
That I am a CHIAUS?"

Foce. What's that?
D. The Turk [who] was here.

A, one would say, do you think I am a Turk?"

CHOUT, an entertainment.—*East end of London*.

CHOVEY, a shop.—*Costermonger*.

CHOW-CHOW, a mixture, food of any kind.—*Anglo-Chinese*.

CHUBBY, round-faced, plump.

CHIVALRY, coition. Probably a corruption from the *Lingua Franca*.

CHIVE, a knife; a sharp tool of any kind.—*Old Cunt*. This term is especially applied to the tin knives used in gaols.

CHIVE, to cut, saw, or file.—*Prison*.

CHRISTENING, erasing the name of the maker from a stolen watch, and inserting a fictitious one in its place.

CHUCK, a schoolboy's treat.—*Westminster School.* Food, provision for an entertainment.—*Norwich.*

CHUCK, to throw or pitch.

CHUCK IN, to challenge—from the pugilistic custom of throwing a hat into the ring; a modern version of “throwing down the gauntlet.”

“CHUCKING A JOLLY,” when a costermonger praises the inferior article his mate or partner is trying to sell. *See CHIT IKE.*

CHUCKLE-HEAD, much the same as “bulle-head,” “cabbage-head,” “chowder-head,” “cods-head,”—all signifying that large abnormal form of skull always supposed to accompany stupidity and weakness of intellect; as the Scotch proverb, “muckle head and little wit.”—*Devonshire.*

CHUCK UP, to surrender, give in—from the custom of throwing up the sponge at a prize fight in token of yielding.

CHUCKS! Schoolboy's signal on the master's approach.

CHUFF IT, *i.e.*, be off, or take it away, in answer to a street seller who is importuning you to purchase. *Halliwell* mentions CHUFF as a “term of reproach,” surly, &c.

CHULL, make haste. An abbreviation of the *Hindostance* CHULLO, signifying “go along.” CHULL is very commonly used to accelerate the motions of a servant, driver, or palanquin-bearer.

CHUM, an acquaintance. A recognised term, but in such frequent use with the lower orders that it demanded a place in this glossary. Stated to be from the *Gael.* CLAOMH, a friend.

CHUM, to occupy a joint lodging with another person. *Latin, cum.*

CHUMMING-UP, an old custom amongst prisoners when a fresh culprit is admitted to their number, consisting of a noisy welcome—rough music made with pokers, tongs, sticks, and saucepans. For this ovation the initiated prisoner has to pay, or *FORK OVER*, half a crown—or submit to a loss of coat and waistcoat. The practice is ancient.

CHUMMY, a chimney-sweep—probably connected with *chimney*; also a low-crowned felt hat.

CHUMP, the head or face.

CHUNK, a thick or dumpy piece of any substance.—*Kentish.*

CHURCHWARDEN, a long pipe, “A YARD OF CLAY.” probably so called from the long pipes which are usually placed before those functionaries as marks of respect when they honour the parlours of public-houses with their company.

CINDER, any liquor used in connexion with soda water, as to “take a soda with a CINDER in it.” The cinder may be sherry, brandy, or any other liquor.

“CHUCK A STALL,” where one rogue walks in front of a person while another picks his pockets.

“CHURCH A YACK,” (or watch,) to take the works of a watch from its original case and put them into another one, to avoid detection.—*See CHRISTEN.*

CIRCUMBENDIBUS, a round-about way, or story.

CLACK-BOX, a garrulous person, so called from the rattle formerly used by vagrants to make a rattling noise and attract attention.—*Norfolk*.

* * * A common proverb in this county is, “your tongue goes like a BAKER'S CLAP-DISH,” which is evidently a modern corruption of beggars' CLAP OR CLACK DISH mentioned in *Shakspeare's Measure for Measure*, iii. 2. It was a wooden dish with a movable cover.

CLAGGUM, boiled treacle in a hardened state, *Hardbake*.—See CLIGGY.

CLAP, to place; “do you think you can CLAP your hand on him?” i.e., find him out.

CLAPPER, the tongue.

CLAP-TRAP, high-sounding nonsense. An ancient *Theatrical term* for a “TRAP to catch a CLAP by way of applause from the spectators at a play.”—*Bailey's Dictionary*.

CLARET, blood.—*Pugilistic*. Said to have originated at Badminton.

CLASHY, a low fellow, a labourer.—*Anglo-Indian*.

CLEAN, quite, or entirely; “CLEAN gone,” entirely out of sight, or away. —*Old, see Cotgrave*.—*Shakespeare*. CLEAN CONTRARY, quite different, opposite.

CLEAN OUT, to thrash, or beat; to ruin, or bankrupt any one; to take all they have got, by purchase or force. *De Quincey*, in his article on *Richard Bentley*, speaking of the lawsuit between that great scholar and Dr Colbatch, remarks that the latter “must have been pretty well CLEANED OUT.”

CLICK, a knock, or blow. CLICK-HANDED, left-handed.—*Cornish*.

CLICK, to snatch, to pull away something that belongs to another.

CLICKER, a female touter at the bonnet shops in Cranbourn Alley. In Northamptonshire, the cutter out in a shoemaking establishment.*

CLIGGY, or CLIDGY, sticky.—*Anglo-Saxon*, CLÆG, clay.—See CLAGGUM.

CLINCHER, that which rivets or confirms an argument, an incontrovertible position. Also a lie which cannot be surpassed, a stopper-up, said to be derived as follows:—Two notorious liars were backed to outlie each other. “I drove a nail through the moon once,” said the first. “Right,” said the other; “I recollect the circumstance well, for I went round to the back part of the moon and clinched it”—hence CLINCHER.

CLIPPING, excellent, very good. CLIPPER, anything showy or first-rate.

* In the *Dictionary of the Terms, Ancient and Modern, of the Canting Crew*, Lond. n. d. (but prior to 1700,) the CLICKER is described as “the shoemaker's journeyman or servant, that cuts out all the work, and stands at or walks before the door, and sales—‘What d'ye lack, sir? what d'ye buy, madam?’”

CLIFT, to steal.

CLINCH, to get the, to be locked up in jail.

CLING-RIG, stealing tankards from public-houses. &c.

CLOCK. "to know what's o'clock," a definition of knowingness in general.
—See TIME O' DAY.

CLOUD-HOPPER, a country clown.

"CLOUD, TO BE UNDER A," to be in disgrace, or disrepute.

CLOUD, TO BLOW A, to smoke a pipe.

CLOUT, or RAG, a cotton pocket-handkerchief.—*Old Cant.*

CLOUT, a blow, or intentional strike.—*Ancient.*

CLOVER, happiness, luck, a delightful position—from the supposed happiness which attends cattle when they suddenly find their quarters changed from a barren field to a meadow of clover.

CLUMP, to strike, to beat.—*Prov.*

CLY, a pocket.—*Old Cant* for to steal. A correspondent derives this word from the *Old English* CLEYES, claws; *Anglo-Saxon* CLEA. This pronunciation is still retained in Norfolk; thus, to CLY would mean to pounce upon, snatch.—See FRISK. *Gael.* CLIAH, (pronounced CLEE,) a basket.

COACH, a Cambridge term for a private tutor, termed a RURAL COACH when he is not connected with a college.

COACH-WHEEL, or TUSHEROON, a crown-piece, or five shillings.

COALS, "to haul (or pull) over the COALS," to take to task, to scold. Supposed by *Jamieson* to refer to the *ordeal by fire*.

COAL, money; "post the COAL," put down the money. The phrase was used by Mr Buckstone at the Theatrical Fund Dinner of 1863. From this is derived the theatrical term COALING, profitable, very good, which an actor will use if his part is full of good and telling speeches—thus, "my part is full of COALING lines."

COBBING, a punishment inflicted by sailors and soldiers among themselves. See *Grose*, and *Captain Marryat's* novels. A hand-saw is the general instrument of punishment.

COCK, a familiar term of address; "jolly old cock," a jovial fellow, "how are you, old cock?" Frequently rendered now-a-days, COCK-E-E, a vulgar street salutation—corruption of COCK-EYE. The latter is frequently heard as a shout or street cry after a man or boy.

COCK, a smoking term; "COCKING a Broseley," i.e., smoking a pipe. Broseley in Staffordshire is famous for "churchwardens."

COCK-A-HOP, in high spirits.

COCK-A-WAX, an amplification of the simple term cock, sometimes "Lad of WAX" in S. S.

"COCK AND A BULL STORY," a long, rambling anecdote.—See *Notes and Queries*, vol. iv., p. 313.

COCK-AND-HEN-CLUB, a free and easy gathering, where females are admitted as well as men.

CLY-FAKER, a pickpocket.

COCK-AND-PINCH, the old-fashioned beaver hat, affected by "swells" and "sporting gents" forty years ago—COCKED back and front, and PINCHED up at the sides.

COCKER, "it is all right, according to Cocker," meaning that everything has been done *en règle*. The phrase refers to the celebrated writing-master of Charles II.'s time, whose Arithmetic, Dictionary, &c., were long the standard authorities. The Arithmetic, probably the work referred to, was first published in 1677–8, and though it reached more than sixty editions, is considered a very scarce book.* A curious fact may here be mentioned in connexion with this saying. It has been stated, and very well proved, that many words popular in Shakespeare's time, and now obsolete in this country, are still in every-day use in the older English settlements of North America. The editor of this work was surprised, when travelling through Western Canada, to find that instead of the renowned Cocker the people appealed to another and more learned authority. "According to GUNTHER," is a phrase in continual Transatlantic use. This scientific worthy invented the sector in 1606; and in 1623, about the time of the great Puritan exodus to North America, he brought out his famous *Rule of Proportion*. This was popularly known as Gunter's Proportion, or "*Gunter's Line*," and the term soon became a vulgar standard of appeal in cases of doubt or dispute.

COCK-EYE, one that squints.

COCKED-HAT-CLUB, the principal clique amongst the members of the Society of Antiquaries, who virtually decide whether any person proposed shall be admitted or not. The term comes from the "cocked-hat" placed before the president at the sittings.

COCKLES, "to rejoice the cockles of one's heart," a vulgar phrase implying great pleasure.—*See PLUCK*.

COCKNEY, a native of London. Originally, a spoilt or effeminate boy, derived from COCKERING, or foolishly petting a person, rendering them of soft or luxurious manners. *Halliwell* states, in his admirable essay upon the word, that "some writers trace the word with much probability to the imaginary land of COCKAYGNE, the lubber land of the olden times." *Grose* gives Minsheu's absurd but comical derivation:—A citizen of London being in the country, and hearing a horse neigh, exclaimed, "Lord! how that horse laughs!" A bystander informed him that that noise was called neighing. The next morning, when the cock crowed, the citizen, to shew that he had not forgotten what was told him, cried out, "do you hear how the COCK NEIGHS?"

* **COCKER.** Professor *de Morgan* (*Notes and Queries*, Jan. 27, 1855) says that the main goodness of Cocker's Tutor consists in his adopting the abbreviated system of division; and suggests that it became a proverbial representative of arithmetic from Murphy's farce of *The Apprentice*, 1756, in which the strong point of the old merchant, Wincate, is his extreme reverence for Cocker and his arithmetic.

"COCK OF THE WALK," a master spirit, head of a party. Places where poultry are fed are called WALKS, and the barn-door cocks invariably fight for the supremacy till one has obtained it.

COCKS, fictitious narratives, in verse or prose, of murders, fires, and terrible accidents, sold in the streets as true accounts. The man who hawks them, a patterer, often changes the scene of the awful event to suit the taste of the neighbourhood he is trying to delude. Possibly a corruption of *cock*, a cooked statement, or, as a correspondent suggests, the COCK LANE ghost may have given rise to the term. This had a great run, and was a rich harvest to the running stationers.

"COCK ONE'S TOES," to die.

COCK-ROBIN SHOP, a small printer's office, where low wages are paid to journeymen who have never served a regular apprenticeship.

COCKSHY, a game at fairs and races, where trinkets are set upon sticks, and for one penny three throws at them are accorded, the thrower keeping whatever he knocks off. From the ancient game of throwing or "shying" at live cocks.

COCKSURE, certain.

COCKY, pert, saucy.

COCKYOLY BIRD, a little bird, frequently called "a dickey bird."—*Kingsley's Two Years Ago*.

COCK, "to cock your eye," to shut or wink one eye.

COCUM, advantage, luck, resources; "Jack's got cocum, he's safe to get on, he is,"—viz., he starts under favourable circumstances. See the following.

COCUM, cunning, sly, "to fight cocum," to be wily and cautious. Allied perhaps to the Scottish KEEK. *German*, GUCKEN, to peep or pry into.

COD, to hoax, take a "rise" out of one.

CODDS, the "poor brethren" of the Charter House. At p. 133 of the *Newcomes*, Mr Thackeray writes, "The Cistercian lavis call these old gentlemen codds, I know not wherefore." An abbreviation of CODGER.

COLDAM, a low public-house game, much affected by medical students and cabmen, three on each side. The game is "simplicity itself," but requires a great amount of low cunning, and peculiar mental ingenuity.

CODGER, or COGER, an old man; "a rum old codger," a curious old fellow. CODGER is sometimes used as synonymous with CADGER, and then signifies a person who gets his living in a questionable manner. "COGERS," the name of a debating society, formerly held in Bride Court, Fleet Street, and still in existence. The term is probably a corruption of COGITATORS.

COFFEE-SHOP, a water-closet, or house of office.

COG, to cheat at dice.—*Shakspeare*. Also, to agree with, as one cog-wheel does with another.

COLD BLOOD, a house licensed for the sale of beer "NOT to be drunk on the premises."

COLD COFFEE, misfortune; sometimes varied to COLD GRUEL.—*Sca.*

COLD COFFEE, an *Oxford* synonyme for a “Sell,” which see.

COLD COOK, an undertaker.

COLD MEAT, a corpse. COLD MEAT BOX, a coffin.

COLD SHOULDER, “to shew or give any one the COLD SHOULDER,” to assume a distant manner towards them, to evince a desire to cease acquaintanceship. Sometimes it is termed “COLD SHOULDER of mutton.”

COLFABIAS, a *Latinised Irish* phrase signifying the closet of decency, applied as a Slang term to a place of resort in Trinity College, Dublin.

COLLAR, “out of COLLAR,” i.e., out of place, no work. Probably a variation of the metaphorical expressions “in, or out of harness,” i.e., in or out of work—the horse being in collar when harnessed for his work.

COLLAR, to seize, to lay hold of. *Thieres'* Slang, i.e., to steal.

“COLLAR AND ELBOW,” a term for a peculiar throw in wrestling.

COLLOGUE, to conspire, talk mysteriously together in low tones, plot mischief. More connected with “*colloquy*” than “colleague.”—*East coast.*

COLLY-WOBBLES, the stomach ache, a person’s bowels,—supposed by many of the lower orders to be the seat of feeling and nutrition; an idea either borrowed from, or transmitted by, the ancients.—*Devonshire.*

COLOUR, complexion, tint; “I’ve not seen the COLOUR of his money,” i.e., he has never paid me any. In fortune-telling by cards, a *diamond colour* is the fairest; *heart-colour*, fair, but not so fair as the last; *club colour*, rather swarthy; *spade colour*, an extremely dark complexion.

COLT, a murderous weapon, formed by slinging a small shot to the end of a rather stiff piece of rope. It is the original of the mis-named “life-preserver.”

COLT, a person who sits as juryman for the first time.

COLT, to fine a new juryman a sum to be spent in drink, by way of “wetting” his office.

COLT, to make a person free of a new place, which is done by his standing treat, and submitting to be struck on the sole of the foot with a piece of board.—*Prov.*

COLT’S TOOTH, elderly persons of juvenile tastes are said to have a COLT’S TOOTH, i.e., a desire to shed their teeth once more, to see life over again.

COMB-CUT, mortified, disgraced, “down on one’s luck.”—*See CUT.*

COME, a Slang verb used in many phrases; “an’t he COMING IT?” i.e., is he not proceeding at a great rate? “Don’t COME TRICKS here,” “don’t COME THE OLD SOLDIER over me,” i.e., we are aware of your practices, and “twig” your manoeuvre. COMING IT STRONG, exaggerating, going a-head; the opposite of “*drawing it mild*.” COMING IT also means informing or disclosing.

COME DOWN, to pay down.

COMMISSION, a shirt.—*Ancient Cant. Italian, CAMICIA*

“ As from our beds, we doe oft cast our eyes,
Cleane linnen yelds a shirt before we use,
Which is a garment shifing in condition;
And in the *canting tongue*, is a COMMISSION.
In weale or woe, in joy or dangrous drifts,
A shirt will put a man unto his shifts.”

—*Taylor's Works*, 1630.

COMMISTER, a chaplain or clergyman.—Originally *Old Cant.*

COMMON SEWER, a DRAIN,—vulgar equivalent for a drink.

COMMONS, rations, because eaten *in common*.—*University. SHORT COMMONS*, (derived from the University Slang term,) a scanty meal, a scarcity.

COMPRAJOR, a purveyor.—*Anglo-Chinese.*

CONCAVES AND CONVEXES, a pack of cards contrived for cheating, by cutting all the cards from the two to the seven concave, and all from the eight to the king convex. Then by cutting the pack breadth-wise a convex card is cut, and by cutting it length-wise a concave is secured.—See *Longs and Shorts*.

CONJEE, a kind of gruel made of rice.—*Anglo-Indian.*

CONK, a nose. Possibly, from the *Latin* CONCHA, a shell. *Greek, κόγχη*—hence anything hollow. Somewhat of a parallel may be found in the *Latin* TESTA, an earthenware pot, a shell, (*Cicero*), and in later *Latin*, a scull, (*Anson*); from whence the *French* TESTE, or TETE, head. CONKY, having a projecting or remarkable nose. The Duke of Wellington was frequently termed “ Old CONKY ” in satirical papers and caricatures.

CONNAUGHT RANGERS, the Eighty-eighth Regiment of Foot in the British Army.

CONSHUN'S PRICE, fair terms, without extortion.—*Anglo-Chinese.*

CONSUMAH, a butler.—*Anglo-Indian.*

CONSTABLE, “to overrun the CONSTABLE,” to exceed one's income, get deep in debt.

CONTANGO, among stock-brokers and jobbers, is a certain sum paid for accommodating a buyer or seller, by carrying the engagement to pay money or deliver shares over to the next account day.

COOEY, the Australian bush-call, now not unfrequently heard in the streets of London.

COOK, a term well known in the Bankruptcy Courts, referring to accounts that have been meddled with, or COOKED, by the bankrupt; also the forming a balance-sheet from general trade inferences; stated by a correspondent to have been first used in reference to the celebrated alteration of the accounts of the Eastern Counties Railway, by George Hudson, the Railway King.

CONVEY, to steal; “ CONVEY, the wise it call.”

CONVEYANCER, a pickpocket. *Shakspeare* uses the Cant expression CONVEYER, a thief. The same term is also *French Slang*.

"COOK ONE'S GOOSE," to kill or ruin a person.—*North.*

COOLER, a glass of porter as a wind up, after drinking spirits and water.

COOLIE, a soldier, in allusion to the *Hindoo coolies*, or day labourers.

COON, abbreviation of racoon.—*American.* A GONE COON—*ditto*, one in an awful fix, past praying for. This expression is said to have originated in the American war with a spy, who dressed himself in a racoon skin, and ensconced himself in a tree. An English rifleman taking him for a veritable coon, levelled his piece at him, upon which he exclaimed, "Don't shoot, I'll come down of myself, I know I'm a GONE COON." The Yankees say the Britisher was so flummuxed, that he flung down his rifle and "made tracks" for home. The phrase is pretty usual in England.

COOPER, stout "HALF-AND-HALF," *i.e.*, half stout and half porter. Derived from the coopers at breweries being allowed so much stout and so much porter a day, which they have mixed sooner than drink the porter after the stout.

COOPER, to destroy, spoil, settle or finish. COOPERED, spoilt, "done up," synonymous with the Americanism CAVED IN, fallen in, ruined. The vagabonds' hieroglyphic ▽, chalked by them on gate posts and houses, signifies that the place has been spoilt by too many tramps calling there.

COOTER, "a sovereign."—See COUTER. *Gipsy, CUTA.*

COP, to seize or lay hold of anything unpleasant; used in a similar sense to *catch* in the phrase "to COP (or catch) a beating," "to get COPT," &c.

COP, beware, take care. A contraction of COPRADOR.—*Anglo-Indian.*

COPER, properly HORSE-COUPER, a Scotch horse-dealer,—used to denote a dishonest one.

COPPER, a policeman, *i.e.*, one who cops, which see.

COPPER, a halfpenny. COPPERS, mixed pence.

COPUS, a Cambridge drink, consisting of ale combined with spices, and varied by spirits, wines, &c. Corruption of HIPPOCRAS.

CORINTHIANISM, a term derived from the classics, much in vogue some years ago, implying pugilism, high life, "sprees," roistering, &c.—*Shakspeare, I Hen. IV.*, ii. 4. The immorality of Corinth was proverbial in Greece. *Kορινθίας εσθαι*, to Corinthianise, indulge in the company of courtesans, was a Greek Slang expression. Hence the proverb—

Οὐ παντὸς ἀνδρὸς εἰς Κύρινθον ἔσθ' ὁ πλοῦς:

and *Horace, Epist. lib. I, xvii. 36*—

"Non cuivis homini contingit adire Corinthum,"

in allusion to the spoliation practised by the "hetære" on those who visited them.

CORK, "to draw a CORK," to give a bloody nose.—*Pugilistic.*

CORKED, said of wine which tastes of cork, from being badly decanted.

COOPER, to forge, or imitate in writing; "cooper a moncker," to forge a signature.

CORKER, "that's a CORKER," *i.e.*, that settles the question, or closes the discussion.

CORKS, a butler.

CORKS, money; "how are you off for corks?" a soldier's term of a very expressive kind, denoting the means of "keeping afloat." CORK is also used in connexion with money when persons at a hotel provide their own wine—sixpence being charged for each "cork" drawn.

CORNED, drunk or intoxicated. Possibly from soaking or pickling one's self like CORNED beef.

CORNER, "the CORNER," Tattersall's famous horse repository and betting rooms, so called from the fact of its situation, which is at Hyde-Park Corner.

CORNED, hemmed in a corner, placed in a position from which there is no escape.—*American*.

CORNER-MAN, the end singer of a corps of Ethiopian or nigger minstrels. In a theatrical advertisement in the *Era* there was, "Wanted a good CORNER-MAN Tambo, who can dance." A particularly clever man is required for the corner station, and in this case he was required to play on the tambourine as well. We insert it as a specimen of *Theat. Slang*.

CORPORATION, the protuberant front of an obese person.

CORPSE, to confuse, or put out the actors by making a mistake.—*Theat.*

COSSACK, a policeman.

COSTERMONGER, a street seller of fish, fruit, vegetables, poultry, &c. The London costermongers number more than 30,000. They form a distinct class, occupying whole neighbourhoods, and are cut off from the rest of metropolitan society by their low habits, general improvidence, pugnacity, love of gambling, total want of education, disregard for lawful marriage ceremonies, and their use of a *Cant* (or so-called *back Slang*) language. COSTERMONGER *ultra* COSTARDMONGER, *i.e.*, an apple-seller. In *Nares's Glossary* (Ed. H. & W.) they are said to have been frequently Irish. So, Ben Jonson—

"Her father was an Irish COSTAR-MONGER."

—*Alchym., iv. I.*

"In England, Sir, troth I ever laugh when I think on't.

—Why, sir, there all the COSTER-MONGERS are Irish."

—*2 P. Hen. IV., O. Pl. iii. 375.*

Their noisy manners are alluded to in *Baumont and Fletcher's Scornful Lady*, iv. i.

"And then he'll rail like a rude COSTER-MONGER
That school-boys had couzened of his apples,
As loud and senseless."

COSTER, the short and Slang rendering of "costermonger," or "costard-monger," who was originally an apple-seller. COSTERING, *i.e.*, costermongering, acting as a costermonger would.

COTTON, to like, adhere to, or agree with any person; "to COTTON on to a man," to attach yourself to him, or fancy him, literally, to stick to

him as cotton would. *Vide Bartlett*, who claims it as an Americanism, and *Halliwell*, who terms it an Archaism; also *Bacchus and Venus*, 1737.

"Her heart's as hard as taxes, and as bad;
She does not even COTTON to her dad."

—*Halliday and Lawrence, Kenilworth Burlesque*.

COTTON LORD, a Manchester manufacturer.

COUNCIL-OF-TEN, the toes of a man who turns his feet inward.

COUNTER, to hit back, exchange blows —*Pugilistic term*.

COUNTER-JUMPER, a shopman, a draper's assistant.

COUNTRY-SHIP, a ship belonging to the East Indies, and trading from port to port in that country.

COUNTRY-CAPTAIN, a spatch-cocked fowl, sprinkled with curry-powder. A favourite breakfast dish with the captain of **COUNTRY SHIPS**.

COUPLE-BEGGAR, a degraded person, who officiated as a clergyman in performing marriages in the Fleet Prison.

COUTER, a sovereign. **HALF-A-COUTER**, half-a-sovereign. From the *Danubian-gipsy* word **CUTA**, a gold coin.

COVE, or **COVEY**, a boy or man of any age or station. A term generally preceded by an expressive adjective, thus a "flash COVE," a "runt COVE," a "downy COVE," &c. The feminine, **COVESS**, was once popular, but it has fallen into disuse. *Ancient Cant*, originally (temp. *Henry VII.*) **COFE**, or **CUFFIN**, altered in *Decker's* time to **COVE**. See *Witts' Recreations*, 1654; "there's a *gentry*-COVE here," i.e., a gentleman. Probably connected with **CUIF**, which, in the North of England, signifies a lout or awkward fellow. Amongst *Negroes*, **CUFFEE**.

COVENTRY, "to send a man to COVENTRY," not to speak to or notice him. Coventry was one of those towns in which the privilege of practising most trades was anciently confined to certain privileged persons, as the freemen, &c. Hence a stranger stood little chance of custom, or countenance, and "to send a man to COVENTRY" came to be equivalent to putting him out of the pale of society.

COVER-DOWN, a tossing coin with a false cover, enabling either head or tail to be shown, according as the cover is left on or taken off. The cover is more generally called a **CAP**.

COW-COW, to be very angry, to scold or reprimand violently.—*Anglo-Chinese*.

COWAN, a sneak, an inquisitive or prying person. *Greek*, κύων, a dog. Term given by Freemasons to all uninitiated persons. Used in *Anderson's Constitutions*, edit. 1769, p. 97. If derived from κύων, its use was probably suggested by such passages in the N. T. as Matt. vii. 6, and Phil. iii. 2. The Moslems apply dog in a similar manner. It is probably Oriental. Other authorities say it is from **COWAN**, or **KIRWAN**, a *Scottish* word signifying a man who builds rough stone walls without mortar—a man who, though he builds, is not a practical mason.

COUNTY-CROP, (*i.e.* COUNTY-PRISON CROP,) hair cut close and round, as if guided by a basin—an indication of having been in prison.

COW'S GREASE, butter.

COW-LICK, the term given to the lock of hair which costermongers and tramps usually twist forward from the ear; a large greasy curl upon the cheek, seemingly licked into shape. The opposite of NEWGATE-KNOCKER, which see.

COXY-LOXY, good-tempered, drunk.—*Norfolk*.

CRAB, or GRAB, a disagreeable old person. *Name of a wild and sour fruit.*

CRAB, “to catch a CRAB,” to fall backwards by missing a stroke in rowing. An allusion, of course, to fishing for crabs.

CRAB, to offend, or insult; to expose or defeat a robbery, to inform against. CRAB, in the sense of “to offend,” is *Old English*.

“If I think one thing and speak another,
I will both crae Christ and our Ladie His mother”

—*Pirkman's Paternoster*.

CRABSHELLS, or TROTTING CASES, shoes.—See CARTS.

CRACK, the favourite horse in a race.

CRACK, first-rate, excellent; “a CRACK HAND,” an adept; a “CRACK article,” a good one.—*Old*.

CRACK, dry firewood.—*Molern Gipsy*.

CRACK, “in a CRACK (of the finger and thumb),” in a moment.

“CRACK A BOTTLE,” to drink. *Shakspeare* uses CRUSH in the same Slang sense.

CRACK UP, to boast or praise.—*Ancient English*.

CRACKED-UP, penniless, or ruined.

CRACKLE, the scored rind on a roast leg of pork; hence applied to the velvet bars on the gowns of the students at St John's College, Cambridge, long called “Hogs,” and the covered bridge which connects one of the courts with the grounds, Isthmus of Suez, (SUIS, *Lat.* sus, a swine.)

CRAM, to lie or deceive, implying to fill up or CRAM a person with false stories; to impart or acquire learning quickly, to “grind” or prepare for an examination.

CRAMMER, one skilled in rapidly preparing others for an examination.

CRAMMER, a lie; or a person who commits a falsehood.

CRANKY, foolish, idiotic, rickety, capricious, not confined to persons. *Ancient Cant*, CRANKE, simulated sickness. *German*, KRANK, sickly.

CRAPPING CASE, or KEN, the closet of decency.

CRAWLY-MAWLY, in an ailing, weakly, or sickly state.

CRAW-THUMPER, a Roman Catholic. Compare BRISKET-BEATER.

CRACK, to break into a house; “CRACK A CRIB,” to commit burglary.

CRACK-FENCER, a man who sells nuts.

CRACKSMAN, a burglar.

CRAPPED, hanged.

"CREAM OF THE VALLEY," gin.

CRIB, houses public or otherwise; lodgings, apartments; a situation.
Very general in the latter sense.

CRIB, to steal or purloin; to appropriate small things.

CRIB, a literal translation of a classic author.—*University*.

CRIB-BITE, an inveterate grumbler; properly said of a horse, which has this habit, a sign of its bad digestion.

CRIBBAGE-FACED, marked with the small-pox, full of holes like a cribbage board.

CRIKEY, profane exclamation of astonishment; "Oh, CRIKEY, you don't say so!" corruption of "*O Christ.*"

CRIPPLE, a bent sixpence.

CROAK, to die—from the gurgling sound a person makes when the breath of life is departing.—*Oxon.*

CROAKER, one who takes a desponding view of everything; an alarmist.
From the croaking of a raven.—*Ben Jonson.*

CROAKER, a beggar.

CROAKER, a dying person beyond hope; a corpse.

CROAKS, last dying speeches, and murderers' confessions.

CROCODILES' TEARS, the tears of a hypocrite. An ancient phrase, introduced into this country by Mandeville, or other early English traveller.—*Othello*, iv., 1.

CRONY, a termagant or malicious old woman; an intimate friend. *Johnson* calls it *Cant.*

CROOKY, to hang on to, to lead, to walk arm-in-arm; to court or pay addresses to a girl.

CROPPER, "to go a CROPPER," i.e., fail or fall.

CROSS, a deception—two persons pretending hostility or indifference to each other, being all the while in concert for the purpose of deceiving a third.

CROSS-BUTTOCK, an unexpected fling down or repulse; from a peculiar throw practised by wrestlers.

CROCUS, or CROAKUS, a quack or travelling doctor; CROCUS-CHOVEY, a chemist's shop.

CROOK'D, a term used among dog-stealers, and the "fancy" generally, to denote anything stolen.

CROPPIE, a person who has had his hair cut, or CROPPED, in prison.

CROPPED, hanged.

CROSS, a general term amongst thieves expressive of their plundering profession, the opposite of SQUARE. "To get anything on the CROSS" is to obtain it surreptitiously. "CROSS-FANNING in a crowd," robbing persons of their scarf-pins. CROSSLER, a thief, or one who lives by dishonest practices.

